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National Report submitted in accordance with paragraph 15(a) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1*

Bahrain

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I. Introduction

1. In March 2012, the Kingdom of Bahrain submitted to the Human Rights Council its second national report, which was adopted by the Council in May of the same year. In September 2012, Bahrain fully supported 145 recommendations, partially supported 13 and rejected 18 recommendations. In addition to this report, the Kingdom of Bahrain submitted a voluntary report in 2014 on progress made on applying the recommendations accepted in the framework of the universal periodic review.

2. In fulfilment of its obligations, Bahrain submits its third national report on the latest developments regarding its international commitments and application of previous recommendations, highlighting its achievements in promoting and protecting human rights through an institutional, legislative and political framework, despite some challenges, including unlawful practices, acts of violence and terrorist threats that threaten the right to life and undermine the reform process. Bahrain is endeavouring to contain these terrorist practices and to confront them within a framework of respect for human rights.

II. Methodology and preparation of the report

A. Methodology

3. In application of the plan drawn up by the Kingdom since it chose to be the first State to submit a report through the universal periodic review mechanism, Bahrain has endeavoured to prepare its reports by promoting the participation of society: the Foreign Ministry held several national consultation meetings attended by government agencies, the legislature, the judiciary and civil society organizations to discuss the views of these bodies in order to prepare the third universal periodic review report. The Foreign Ministry also organized a consultation meeting with civil society organizations in which 13 associations[1] concerned with human rights took part. Some of them submitted observations and opinions, which have been taken into account in the report. This practical approach is an expression of the belief of the competent Bahraini authorities in the need to consult and coordinate with stakeholders on preparation of the report.

B. Preparation of the report

4. In this framework, the Foreign Ministry — represented by the Human Rights Section — wrote to the relevant official bodies and civil society organizations asking for their views, in particular on what had been achieved regarding the outcomes and recommendations of the universal periodic review in the human rights field during the period 2012-2016. The responses received from these bodies were discussed with government agencies and civil society organizations at several national consultation meetings. It was stressed that the information provided should be based on the principles of transparency, participation, responsiveness, accountability, non-discrimination and inclusiveness.

5. The High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights[2] was responsible for preparing the report and a Foreign Ministry team, under the direct supervision of the Committee, was tasked with collecting the necessary information from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for this purpose. It should be noted that this Committee is chaired by the Foreign Minister, includes representatives of 13 ministries and government agencies and is responsible for coordinating government agencies in all matters relating to human rights, according to the remit of each.

6. The team prepared a preliminary draft report based on the results of the discussions among all the participants at the consultation meetings and in accordance with the general guidelines for the preparation of information for the universal periodic review adopted by virtue of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007. The draft was submitted to

all the stakeholders who participated in the consultations in preparation for its final adoption.

7. Care has been taken in the preparation of the report to group the measures taken into clusters based on the division of the recommendations as they appear in the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, entitled "Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review" (A/HRC/21/6/Add/Rev.1). Several annexes are appended for the use of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as follows:

- Annex I: A summary table of the recommendations, which follows their numerical sequence, in addition to what is indicated in the body of the report; annex II: Capacity-building and skills development for the Ministry of Justice; annex III: Training courses and academic programmes for the Interior Ministry; annex IV: Additional information on the National Human Rights Institution; annex V: Additional information on implementing measures in response to the recommendations on education and disabilities.

8. In January 2017, the High Coordinating Committee adopted the draft report and published it at the national level in various local media and on the website of the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated to the universal periodic review.

III. Measures taken to implement the recommendations of the second universal periodic review (2012)[1]

A. Recommendations with full support

Treaties and international human rights mechanisms (recommendations 2, 6, 14, 54, 57, 58, 59, 66, 67, 163, 157)

9. The government agencies concerned continue to examine the issue of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and, when building national capacities, the agencies concerned bear in mind compliance with the standards of the Protocol and benefit from the knowledge of international experts such as the United Kingdom Inspectorate of Prisons and the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

10. In September 2013, the Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission, an independent body, was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. 61 of 2013. There are also independent bodies that monitor places of detention and conduct visits without prior notice: the judiciary and the prosecution; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); the Office of the Ombudsman in the Ministry of Interior; the National Human Rights Institution; and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are authorized to visit. The establishment of the Commission was welcomed by several international players, including the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Government of the United Kingdom.

11. The question of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance remains under discussion.

12. In early 2014, a technical team from OHCHR visited Bahrain for two months to hold consultations with governmental and official agencies and civil society organizations and to develop a technical cooperation and capacity-building programme. In light of these consultations, the two sides reached agreement on a cooperation project in several areas, including the capacity-building of law enforcement officers and the development of regulatory institutions in line with needs and international human rights standards.

13. The Kingdom has participated in many activities, including a training course on regional and international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights for the staff of government agencies and civil society institutions, which took place from 16 to 18 May 2016, and the workshop held on 27 and 28 November 2016 by OHCHR in cooperation with the League of Arab States entitled "The interaction of States with

international human rights mechanisms and national mechanisms for the preparation of reports and follow-up of recommendations".

14. Bahrain has contributed $150,000 to the work of OHCHR, which will be used by its country office in the occupied Palestinian Territories to ensure respect for human rights and international law in humanitarian work.

Respecting human rights, including capacity-building (recommendations 37, 41, 93, 103, 115, 119, 123, 161)

15. Several actions have been carried out, including:

(a) The application of constitutional, legal and practical guarantees to ensure respect for the human rights of citizens and residents has been reaffirmed;

(b) It has been emphasized that all members of law enforcement agencies must observe international human rights standards when arresting or searching persons or searching homes or any other private property, reaffirming the need to treat citizens in such a way as to preserve their dignity;

(c) The necessary rules have been established to regulate the right of citizens to assemble and participate in peaceful marches, avoiding disruption of everyday life or traffic and in accordance with international standards in this regard;

(d) Steps have also been taken to underscore the efforts of Bahrain to consolidate the rule of law and ensure respect for human rights, including:

- Promulgation of Legislative Decree No. 44 of 2012 amending certain provisions of the Judicial Authority Act to ensure its complete financial and administrative independence;
- Establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman under Royal Decree No. 27 of 2012. The Office enjoys complete administrative and financial independence of the Interior Ministry and receives and examines administrative complaints concerning allegations of human rights violations by any ministry employees;

(e) The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Religious Endowments and the Supreme Judicial Council pay particular attention to the training of all members of the judiciary, including lawyers in the Attorney-General's office, to the highest international standards of criminal justice and human rights. In this context, several memoranda of understanding have been signed with prestigious international judicial and legal training institutions and several training sessions have already been held outside Bahrain for more than two thirds of the members of the judiciary, including women working in this area. Moreover, the second phase of an intensive training programme that took place outside Bahrain has recently been completed in conjunction with one of the most prestigious NGOs with a view to upgrading the skills of all members of the judiciary in the fields of promotion and protection of human rights and criminal justice best practices;

(f) Capacity-building programmes have been introduced for judges, prosecutors and lawyers, covering, among others, criminal justice, application of the Istanbul Protocol, guarantees and rights of the accused and practical applications, which have been carried out in collaboration with local and international agencies. (See paragraph 7 for further details);

(g) The Interior Ministry has set up recruitment programmes open to all Bahrainis without exception, from all sections of society. The first group of aspiring police officers graduated in 2013;

(h) In order to improve training methods, general and specialized training courses continued to be held for all those working in application and enforcement of the law. In this context, training is provided to judges, prosecutors, members of the military judiciary and lawyers;

(i) Police training programmes pay particular attention to international standards on human rights and police work, the role of the police in applying international human rights standards in situations of emergency and civil disorder, the role of the police in

protecting human rights, and explaining the Code of Conduct for Police Officers and human rights standards in police work, and other programmes dealing with reform and rehabilitation institutions. (See paragraph 7 for further details);

(j) The following have been held: in cooperation with OHCHR, a course on the reports of NGOs and national human rights institutions for the universal periodic review; workshops for members of the Office of the Ombudsman in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross; a workshop on the investigation of serious complaints, in cooperation with Northern Ireland Cooperation Ltd (NI-CO); and workshops on the work of the High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights, in cooperation with the National School of Government International (NSGI) in the United Kingdom;

(k) In collaboration with OHCHR, training courses have been organized on the role of civil society in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom, including workshops on guarantees of a fair trial, the Convention against Torture, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and other programmes. (See paragraph 7 for further details).

Constitution and national legislation
(recommendations 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 32, 33, 53, 88, 90, 146, 151, 153, 154, 160)

16. The Government has been working on the adoption of a set of amendments to harmonize the legislation of Bahrain with international standards, particularly with respect to human rights and criminal justice. The references to torture in the Criminal Code and the Public Security Act have been amended to ensure the protection of victims and the punishment of perpetrators of such offences.

17. The following have also been promulgated, for example:

- Act No. 17 of 2015 on protection from domestic violence;[4]
- Act No. 52 of 2015 amending the definition of torture contained in articles 208 and 232 of the Criminal Code;[5]
- Act No. 13 of 2016 amending certain provisions of Act No. 26 of 2005 on political associations,[6] which stipulates, among other things, that "A member shall not combine membership of an association with religious preaching, sermons, spiritual guidance or religious rhetoric, even if they do not receive a salary. Religious preaching may in no circumstances be combined with political action".

18. Confirming the role of the judiciary, several members of the judiciary have participated in setting up committees to supervise the administration of justice. The following committees have been set up:

- The Higher Committee to Oversee the Integrity of Elections;
- The Executive Committee for Supplementary Elections;
- The Appeals Committee on Decisions of the Elections Committee.

Criminal justice
(recommendations 22, 31, 42, 84, 85, 86, 87, 91, 92, 98, 100, 101, 106, 108, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 121, 122, 125, 126, 159)

19. Bahrain has recently taken important effective measures to guarantee the administration of criminal justice, reflecting its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Under Attorney-General's Decision No. 8 of 2012, the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) was established. It is an independent body that applies international standards in the investigation of allegations of torture and inhuman treatment. The Unit has begun its work of investigation and calling to account, referring the alleged perpetrators of such crimes to the courts for trial.

20. With regard to certain legislation and the concern of the Government that there should be no impunity for perpetrators of various forms of torture, on 9 October 2012, Act No. 52 of 2012 was promulgated, amending the definition of torture contained in articles 208 and 232 of the Criminal Code. The new wording of article 208 makes it an offence to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering on a person being held with the

knowledge of a public officer or authorized agent or under the authority of such for the purpose of obtaining information or a confession or of punishing, intimidating or coercing him/her or another person. The amendment also stipulates that the statute of limitations does not apply to torture offences. The amendment to article 232 makes punishable any person who inflicts severe physical or mental pain or suffering on a person he has detained or who is under his control for the purpose of obtaining information or a confession or of punishing, intimidating or coercing him/her or another person. The amendment also stipulates that the statute of limitations does not apply to torture offences.

21. All the judgments handed down by the National Safety Courts have been reviewed, either through the civil courts by appeal or through the special judicial committee set up by the Supreme Judicial Council to examine them on the basis of the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). As for the charges relating to freedom of expression, in line with the conclusions of the Commission of Inquiry report, the prosecution has dropped all charges that interfere with the right to and exercise of freedom of expression, namely, charges of inciting hatred against the ruling regime and broadcasting false news or rumours that could undermine security and public order. As a result, several cases have been definitively resolved and 334 defendants have benefited from the withdrawal of those charges. However, some cases are still in progress, despite the withdrawal of these charges, because they concern other offences of a different nature involving acts of violence and sabotage against persons and property.

22. Furthermore, the Government of Bahrain has adopted a Civil Settlement Initiative to compensate victims of the events of February and March 2011 on the proposal of the National Committee formed to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry report, without prejudice to the right of those who do not accept the proposed out-of-court settlement to resort to the civil courts and not affecting any criminal liability. The Civil Settlement Office has paid compensation in 48 cases: the 35 cases mentioned in the Commission of Inquiry report and thirteen other cases not mentioned in the report that the Committee considered required compensation. An assessed budget for compensation in two phases was adopted totalling 2,880,000 dinars (BD), i.e. more than $7,658,000, for all the cases for which the Committee approved compensation. The sums have been disbursed in full to those who have accepted civil settlement. Regarding the physical injury cases, the National Committee examined the applications made to the Civil Settlement Office and determined their right to compensation. The final report on those cases has been published and indicates the degree of injury in each case. On this basis, BD 324,000, the equivalent of $861,000, has been disbursed to 47 physical injury cases.

National Institution for Human Rights
(recommendations 34, 35, 36)

23. Following a series of wide-ranging consultations with relevant civil society organizations and the legislature — the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council and their committees —, and in response to the recommendations of the National Institution for Human Rights, Act No. 26 of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights was promulgated, and amended by Legislative Decree No. 20 of 2016. It reaffirmed the independence of the National Institution and its compliance with the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The National Institution thus has broad powers to promote and protect human rights and enjoys legal, administrative and financial independence. The members of the Board of Commissioners enjoy immunity in relation to their rights work, while the inviolability of the headquarters of the Institution has also been decreed. The Act gives the Institution authority to monitor and receive complaints, to provide legal advice and to conduct field visits to any public place suspected of being the site of a human rights violation, grants the possibility of wider access to information and gives it authority to take decisions without influence or interference from any other agency. (See paragraph 7 for further details.)

Implement all recommendations of the BICI (recommendations 28, 43, 45, 56, 99, 107, 124, 127, 128, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 145, 162)

24. The Government has paid particular attention to this matter and taken all legislative and executive measures for full implementation of the recommendations. Royal Order No. 48 of 2011 established a National Commission[7] to implement the recommendations. This Commission has embarked upon the tasks entrusted to it transparently and fairly. In the same context, the Cabinet issued a decision to set up a body to oversee implementation of the recommendations. It is composed of a group of experts working under the direct supervision of the Minister of Justice, liaises with all the relevant ministries and government agencies and verifies implementation of the general framework established by the National Commission.

25. As a result of the foregoing, complete implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry recommendations has been declared. For example, in this context, the obligation to reinstate students dismissed from their universities and return employees to their jobs has been implemented and the civil settlement of cases of death and physical injury has taken place without prejudice to the right to resort to the competent courts. The Special Investigation Unit has been set up in the public prosecution office, the Office of the Ombudsman in the Interior Ministry and the Office of the Inspector-General in the National Security Agency. The judgments handed down by the ordinary courts have been reviewed, several laws have been amended, in particular the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code, while the training of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and lawyers has been overhauled. The principle has been laid down that houses of worship should be built for all lawfully and in their allocated places according to approved regulatory conditions and without infringing citizens' property rights. The Government has also taken some additional measures, such as the establishment of the Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission, to ensure that they are not subjected to violations. It should be noted that these mechanisms enjoy a high degree of trust among citizens because they carry out their mandate and work with independence, transparency and neutrality.

26. In the framework of the evaluation of the judgments handed down by the National Safety Courts to review the legal status of the accused in these cases and ensure that the judgments complied with international human rights standards, on 2 January 2012, the Supreme Judicial Council issued a decision establishing a judicial committee to review the final judgments handed down by the National Safety Courts in order to guarantee the right of the accused to a fair trial. This resulted in a reduction of sentences, some convictions being quashed, the release of some convicted persons and the expiry of conviction of some others. The prosecution dropped all charges that interfere with the right to and exercise of freedom of expression, which terminated several cases.

27. In response to the recommendation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry to speed up compensation for those harmed, two mechanisms have been implemented:

- Specialized courts were established to hear compensation claims under Decree No. 13 of 2012 organizing the work of the National Victim Compensation Fund;
- A five-member committee was set up to oversee the work of the National Victim Compensation Fund.

28. To compensate those harmed by the events, the Government sought effective alternatives to resolve their situation through speedy procedures in implementation of recommendations 1725 (b) and 1722 (j and k). The Civil Settlement Initiative was adopted on the proposal of the National Committee set up to oversee implementation of the recommendations, without prejudice to the right of those who do not accept the proposed out-of-court settlement to resort to the civil courts and not affecting any criminal liability. The Government took several effective measures: in the light of the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting of 4 March 2012 tasking it with measures for the civil settlement of compensation for those harmed by the events of February and March 2011, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Religious Endowments began to accept requests for civil

compensation with effect from 18 March 2012. The Civil Settlement Office received a total of 63 requests for compensation for death and 434 for compensation for physical injury.

29. By virtue of Ministerial Decree No. 13-2 of 2012, the competent committee of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Religious Endowments studied the claims for compensation for death and physical injury and the Civil Settlement Office paid compensation in 48 cases, including the 35 cases mentioned in the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry report and thirteen other cases not mentioned in the report. The Committee estimates that it has disbursed a total of BD 2,880,000, equivalent to more than $7,658,000 in these cases. The sums have been disbursed in cash and in full to those who have accepted civil settlement. It should be noted that these sums have been disbursed regardless of criminal cases against defendants and of the judgments in those cases and without prejudice to the right of those harmed who do not accept the proposed out-of-court settlement to resort to the civil courts.

30. The Committee also studied applications for compensation submitted to the Civil Settlement Office for cases of physical injury incurred during the events of February and March 2011. The Committee asked senior forensic pathologists at the forensic evidence department to examine all the cases of physical injury in order to establish the cause of the alleged injury, the degree of disability and whether the injury was likely to have been sustained on the date alleged. In light of the reports the Committee received from the forensic pathologists, it estimated the appropriate compensation for those cases in proportion to the disability and paid compensation to the injured. The Committee compensated 47 of the cases of physical injury for which an application for civil settlement had been submitted, disbursing a total of BD 324,000, approximately $861,000.

31. Regarding the rebuilding of religious facilities mentioned in the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry report, the Government of Bahrain is eager to provide the right climate for freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief. The right of all citizens and residents of Bahrain to practise religion is guaranteed and maintained under the Constitution. Accordingly, the Government grants permits for the construction of places of worship in a manner compatible with the laws on ownership of land, building permits and other administrative regulations in force approved by the authorities concerned. Their protection is guaranteed by the laws regulating this matter.

32. In order to put this regulatory system into effect, the 30 facilities that violated regulations and are referred to in the Commission of Inquiry report have been demolished. According to the report, they were built of makeshift materials without licences in a manner inconsistent with the detailed approved zoning scheme and on land some of which belongs to private persons, some to the Government, with the exception of just five built on land zoned for places of worship that were built and put into operation since 2013. The other 25 pinpointed in the report were, as mentioned above, built without permits. His Majesty the King issued instructions for all of them to be rebuilt. In implementation of these instructions, following adjustment of their positions as required and to meet the needs of the local people, they have been rebuilt in accordance with the regulations and with a completion rate of 100 per cent.

33. It should be noted that Ministry of Justice statistics indicate that 608 places of worship, prayer halls and mosques and 618 funeral halls for men and women are supervised by the Department of Shia Religious Endowments, while 440 mosques and prayer halls are supervised by the Department of Sunni Religious Endowments, including 91 events halls.

Women and gender equality
(recommendations 39, 48, 50, 51, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77)

34. Article 5, paragraph (b), of the Constitution stipulates: "The State shall ensure the reconciliation of the duties of women towards the family with their work in society, and their equality with men in the political, social, cultural, and economic spheres, without violating the provisions of Islamic law (Sharia)".

35. The Legislative Decree amending certain provisions of the Court of Cassation Act allows appeals to the Court of Cassation on provisions of Sharia.

36. The Legislative Decree amending certain provisions of the Judicial Authority Act added the Court of Cassation to the Sharia judicial structure.

37. Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Royal Order setting out the rules on the appointment of members of the Shura Council concerns the adequate representation of women.

38. Bahrain continues its efforts to promote gender equality and ensure women's political, social and economic place in society. It is therefore working to promulgate and amend certain laws, such as the draft amendment to the Social Security Act adding the children of Bahraini mothers married to foreigners to its beneficiaries, the amendment of certain provisions of the Legislative Decree on unemployment insurance in order to increase the amount of benefit, and the amendment of certain provisions of the Power of Attorney Act so that power of attorney over the property of minors may be granted either to the father or the mother, whichever is best qualified.

39. A Legislative Decree has been promulgated amending certain provisions of the Sharia Courts Procedure Act requiring domestic disputes to be submitted for settlement or reconciliation to the Domestic Reconciliation Office, which is composed of psychologists, social workers and lawyers, before they are brought before the Sharia Court.

40. Article 334 of the Code of Criminal Procedure has been amended to stop application of the death penalty to pregnant women.

41. The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2013-2022 has been launched. It has five main lines that seek to ensure family stability within the framework of family cohesion, to give women the necessary capacity to contribute competitively to the development process on the basis of the principle of equal opportunities, to integrate the needs of women into development by giving them the possibility to distinguish themselves in their performance and to progress in their aspirations with a view to improving their quality of life and promoting lifelong learning. Interaction and collaboration with partners and allies complementing the institutional work takes place through the Supreme Council for Women, the national house of expertise in women's affairs.

42. The National Plan has been included in the government work programme for 2015-2018, which was adopted by the Council of Representatives during the fourth legislative term in January 2015.

43. The Women's Support and Information Centre has been established. It is a place in which to focus on and tackle the situation and problems of Bahraini women and foreign women married to Bahrainis by directly receiving their complaints and questions, examining their situation and helping to solve the problems they face through the various means and mechanisms available.

44. The economic empowerment of women has been promoted. The Supreme Council for Women has launched a series of training and rehabilitation programmes in the framework of several projects that aim to provide women with the skills and technical knowledge needed to set up or run small projects or engage in entrepreneurship. In cooperation with state institutions, it has also launched several initiatives and programmes for the provision of consultancy services and facilities for the economic empowerment of women, such as the establishment of the Bahrain Women's Capacity Development Centre, Riyadat, as an economic incubator for women providing all training, advisory and promotional services for entrepreneurs. There are also mechanisms that provide support and financing under favourable conditions, such as the Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Investment Fund, to support and finance the commercial activities of Bahraini women. (See paragraph 7 for further details.)

45. In order to promote the political empowerment of women, the Supreme Council for Women launched the permanent integrated programme for the empowerment of women in the political sphere, which focuses on networking with all stakeholders and the relevant institutions to implement training and outreach for women wishing to participate in public affairs. The programme was developed after the 2002 elections and up to 2016. These efforts have contributed to the arrival of several women in the Council of Representatives and on municipal councils.

Family law
(recommendations 49, 138, 139)

46. The Family Provisions Act (Section I) has been issued and applied to the Sunni Chamber of the Sharia Court. The Government is currently working on a draft unified law on family provisions.

47. In cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council, the Supreme Council for Women has conducted a study of the effect of application of the Family Provisions Act (Section I) in the Sharia Court.

48. A set of brochures has been published to explain in simple terms the articles of the Family Provisions Act (Section I) and to provide information about legal services for women. Awareness programmes and media campaigns have also been conducted to raise awareness of the main provisions of the Act (Section I) and the importance of expediting the promulgation of Section II.

49. Ongoing programmes are implemented on family education and legal education aimed at young couples to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the requirements of domestic compatibility and of the local legislation and international agreements that support and instil positive attitudes towards women's issues.

Nationality
(recommendations 75, 95, 96, 140, 141, 142, 143)

50. The Supreme Council for Women pays particular attention to the subject of the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners and seeks to improve their situation through its contribution to taking the necessary measures to access the basic services available to citizens.

51. The Cabinet has issued a decision approving a draft law amending certain provisions of the Bahraini Nationality Act of 1963, allowing Bahraini citizenship to be granted to the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners under specific rules and criteria. It has been referred to the legislative authority in accordance with constitutional and legal procedures.

National legislation on education and disabilities
(recommendations 38, 46, 52, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172)

Education

52. Article 2, paragraph (a), of the Constitution stipulates: "The State shall safeguard the sciences, the humanities and the arts and shall encourage scientific research. The State shall also guarantee educational and cultural services to its citizens. Education shall be compulsory and free in the initial stages as determined and provided by law. The law shall lay down the necessary plan to combat illiteracy".

53. In the framework of citizenship and human rights education and curriculum planning for the various educational stages and classes in government and private schools, the principle of equality of opportunity is one of the essential foundations underlying curricula, syllabuses, textbooks and all other teaching aids and materials. One of the features of this approach is the incorporation of positive discrimination in favour of the most vulnerable social groups, and specifically for the benefit of those with disabilities.

54. Regarding education for people with disabilities and special needs, all such students enjoy special educational support and teaching in educational establishments, including:

(a) In 2015/16, an integrated educational curriculum was applied for the rehabilitation of students with mental disabilities and Down syndrome;

(b) Students with special needs, cancer patients, sickle cell anaemia patients and deaf students are cared for during final examinations by placing them under a special board and the provision of special facilities and any other measures their condition requires;

(c) Rehabilitation centres provide rehabilitation services for students with minor and non-severe mental disabilities and cerebral palsy to enable them to be integrated in ordinary government schools;

(d) A rehabilitation centre has been established for people with mobility disabilities and cerebral palsy;

(e) Educational curricula and assessment systems and means of support have been intensified for all students with special needs in the school system;

(f) Three private educational establishments (three schools) have been licensed to teach students with special needs following a curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education;

(g) A centre for the assessment and diagnosis of disability and a special centre to meet the needs of people with disabilities for training, job search and labour market integration have been opened;

(h) Work is in progress on the completion of nine rehabilitation centres in a comprehensive disability complex.

Disability

55. The rights of people with disabilities receive a great deal of attention in Bahrain, which was among the countries that worked on implementation of the Arab Decade of Disabled Persons, adopted by the League of Arab States. Under Decision No. 3 of 2005, a national decade of disabled persons committee was set up. Bahrain acceded to Arab Labour Convention No. 17 of 1993 on the Rehabilitation and Employment of the Disabled by virtue of Legislative Decree No. 3 of 1996.

56. The National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities was launched on 3 October 2011, with cooperation and coordination between the Higher Committee for Disabled Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is a comprehensive and integrated strategy based on a range of field studies and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Bahrain acceded in 2011, and seeks to ensure that people with disabilities obtain full rights on an equal basis with others, achieve comprehensive integration and receive the best care and development. A road map was drawn up for application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Strategy has seven main lines, including information and awareness, which has several strategic directions for implementation, including:

(a) Building a suitable media structure to promote a social and rights approach to disability;

(b) Setting up an effective coordinating subcommittee to oversee information, awareness and disability programmes.

57. The Strategy also includes an economic empowerment component with several strategic directions:

(a) The establishment of a fund to support the participation of people with disabilities in the national economy;

(b) Activation of the role of the Ministry of Labour in the employment of persons with disabilities.

(See paragraph 7 for further details.)

Police training in respecting human rights (recommendations 89, 102, 104, 105, 109, 130)

58. Bahrain has demonstrated keen interest in continuing to support capacity-building of the Bahraini police in the context of the obligation to respect human rights in law enforcement. The Interior Ministry has therefore worked hard to improve police capacities by tackling various aspects of their training in several local and external courses, including:

(a) Local conferences and training courses:

- Four courses on human rights for public security forces: 87 participants;
- Four courses on human rights in policing: 213 members of the security forces participated;
- A course on the legislature and supporting and promoting human rights in Bahrain: 250 participants;
- A course on effectiveness of the application of human rights in the security services: 119 participants from Bahrain, in addition to participants from several other Arab countries;
- Eight courses on the role of the police in safeguarding human rights: 152 participants;
- A training course explaining international human rights law and the international treaties signed by Bahrain: 22 participants;
- A course explaining the Code of Conduct for Police Officers: 443 officers and 8,832 enlisted men;
- Two courses on substantive and procedural controls on the use of force in administrative detention: 54 participants from public security;
- Two courses on criminal investigation to fight crime and practical application of the criminal law: 47 participants;
- A course to train trainers to explain the Code of Conduct for Police Officers: eight officers participated;
- A course on the disciplinary liability of public employees in Bahraini law: 21 participants;
- A course on trafficking in human beings: 22 participants;

(b) Participation in courses and conferences abroad:

- Five training courses in Italy on technical assistance for police officers: 102 participants;
- Course 21 of the Human Rights Council in Geneva: six participants;
- Three courses on human rights in several Arab countries: 29 participants.

(c) Organization of the Second Arab Police Scientific Forum, Human Rights Practices in Security Agencies, in cooperation with Naif University for Security Sciences, held from 20 to 23 January 2013: 84 participants from the Interior Ministry and 35 other participants — a total of 119 participants from Bahrain;

(d) The Interior Ministry issued Decision No. 14 of 2012 on the Code of Conduct for Police Officers, which includes principles for law enforcement officers aimed at promoting a human rights culture. The Interior Ministry also issued Decision No. 24 of 2014 on basic principles on the use of force and firearms.

(See paragraph 7 for further details.)

The rights of the child (recommendation 29)

59. The Child Act (No. 37 of 2012) was issued in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Bahrain has acceded. On 18 February 2016, Decision No. 4 of 2016 was issued on restructuring the National Committee for Childhood, which was first set up in 1999 and is responsible, among other things, for overseeing implementation of the National Childhood Strategy Action Plan and assisting agencies concerned with childhood to develop and promote projects and programmes that serve and guarantee the rights of the child.

60. In 2013, the National Childhood Strategy 2013-2017 was launched. It is geared to the characteristics, needs and requirements of this age group and to the characteristics of the

society and its culture, which is based on Sharia. The Strategy was developed on the basis of the findings of an analysis of the status of the child in Bahrain in 2010/11.

The media and the press
(recommendation 25, 30, 93, 147, 148, 149, 150, 152, 155, 156, 158)

61. Access to information and the Internet is a constitutional and legal right. A new draft law on the press and electronic media is in preparation to promote the freedom and independence of the press and electronic media establishments in accordance with international rules, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It prohibits any calls to violence or hatred, any threats to national security or public order, any violation of the rights, reputation or dignity of others or public morals and any violation of human rights principles. It enhances the right of journalists to express their views safely and independently in the framework of the Constitution and the law, including the guarantee of the right to access information and circulate it.

62. Executive and judicial measures have been taken to prohibit any incitement to sectarianism and violence, national or religious hatred or racism in the media, in accordance with the Criminal Code, as amended, the current Press Act, which was promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 47 of 2002 and reaffirmed in the draft press and electronic media law, and the international conventions acceded to by Bahrain.

63. Shared national values and a spirit of tolerance and peaceful coexistence are promoted under the Press Charter, adopted in January 2012, the Audio-Visual Media Charter and the Media Conduct Handbook (June 2012), according to a sophisticated media strategy that protects professional ethics in line with global standards.

64. The High Authority for Information and Communications was established in June 2013 to promote responsible freedom in the media in accordance with the professional and ethical rules set out in the Media Charter and international rules prohibiting incitement to sectarianism or religious, racial or sectarian hatred in order to achieve the higher interests of the nation, protect national security and preserve the unity, safety and stability of the community.

65. The Kingdom of Bahrain supports the right of journalists to fulfil their mission freely and independently and punishes any assault on them with the penalties laid down for assault of a public employee under the provisions of articles 29-34 of the current Press Act, which was promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 47 of 2002, which guarantees that no journalist may be arrested, imprisoned, intimidated, oppressed or humiliated for exercising the legal and constitutional right to freedom of expression. The right of the victim of any unlawful practices to take legal action is guaranteed.

66. The Government continues to promote the right of journalists to express their views safely and independently within the framework of the draft press and electronic media law, which will be referred to the legislature. This draft law makes provision for many advantages, including freedom of the press, printing, publishing and electronic media, and the independence of journalists. An opinion originating from a journalist or true information published is not a reason for breach of his/her security nor is it permissible to force him/her to disclose sources of information. Journalists also have the right to obtain information, statistics and news from their sources that it is permissible to publish by law. Insulting or assaulting a journalist because of his/her work is an offence punishable by the penalties laid down for assault of a public employee. A journalist may be dismissed only after an independent professional committee has been informed of the grounds for dismissal; it will then seek to reconcile the parties. The provisions of the Private Sector Employment Act are applied to dismissals. Professional rules on the rights and duties of journalists are laid down in the framework of the Press Charter.

67. According to the Measuring the Information Society Report published by the International Telecommunications Union in 2014, Bahrain ranks first in the Middle East and North Africa and 27th in the world for access to, use of and skills levels in information and communications technology. It is one of the first countries in the region to have liberalized this sector. The prevalence of mobile telecommunications services exceeds 183

per cent of the total adult population of 1.3 million, and Internet services 129 per cent. More than 541,000 persons use Facebook, 250,000 Twitter and 120,000 Instagram.

Human rights defenders
(recommendations 147, 150, 156, 158)

68. The following should be noted in this connection:

- Freedom of opinion and expression are general rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the law;
- Legislative Decree No. 21 of 1989 on private social and cultural associations and clubs, private bodies working in the youth and sports sectors and private institutions is applied in the framework of legal safeguards;
- The Ministry of Social Development is working in cooperation with and with the support of civil society organizations to establish the National NGO Support Centre and to support and encourage voluntary work. The Centre aims to provide various aspects of support and development to civil society organizations. Its objectives include:
    - Improve the performance and enhance the capabilities of civil society organizations;
    - Develop civil action to meet the needs and aspirations of society;
    - Support and encourage voluntary work; and
    - Encourage and support community partnership between the governmental, civil society and private sectors.

69. Bahrain welcomes the entry of journalists and foreign media in accordance with international standards and the criteria for the granting of visas. More than 60 accredited foreign correspondents reside in the Kingdom, while a foreign correspondents and media club was established in Manama in 2005.

Combatting human trafficking and labour law
(recommendations 76, 94, 97, 164, 165, 173, 174, 175, 176)

Combatting human trafficking

70. The Human Trafficking Act was promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 1 of 2008. In application of its provisions, the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was set up and is currently chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, its membership including representatives of the relevant ministries. Its objectives include devising programmes to prohibit and combat human trafficking, protecting the victims of human trafficking from renewed victimization and overseeing implementation by the governmental authorities concerned of the recommendations and guidelines contained in the conventions and protocols on combating human trafficking to which Bahrain is a party.

71. To assess the status of foreign victims of trafficking in persons, a committee has been established that is chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and includes representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Foreign Ministry, the Interior Ministry General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority. The committee examines all reports concerning victims, hears their statements or their legal representatives and removes any obstacles that may prevent foreign victims obtaining work if this is deemed necessary on the basis of what the chair of the committee has been told by the competent authority in this regard. It coordinates with the Interior Ministry to return victims to their country of nationality or their place of residence in any other State if so requested, recommends whether it is appropriate for a victim to remain in Bahrain, adjusts their legal situation to enable them to work and refers this recommendation to the Minister of the Interior for approval. If the recommendation is approved, it is subject to review under the same procedure at least every six months.

72. The committee has opened a shelter for men and another for women exposed to trafficking in persons. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development is also building an integrated centre for victims of human trafficking with a capacity of more than 120.

Labour law

73. The Private Sector Employment Act (Law No. 36 of 2012) includes domestic workers in several of its provisions, such as those on employment contracts, protection of wages, end-of-service benefits, the right to annual leave, exemption from litigation costs and individual dispute settlement procedures.

74. Bahrain is a leading country in the Arab region in many areas of protection of foreign workers, including the right to change employer and to unemployment insurance, in addition to the prohibition on working in open places in the sun in the afternoon in July and August, a measure that benefits expatriates since most workers on construction projects are foreigners.

75. In the framework of the Private Sector Employment Act, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, in cooperation with the other agencies concerned, oversees the inspection of the accommodation employers provide for the expatriate workers they employ.

76. In cooperation with foreign embassies and clubs, the Ministry seeks through activities, awareness campaigns and guidance to spread awareness among foreign workers. It issued Ministerial Decision No. 40 of 2014 on the requirements and specifications of workers' housing and, in collaboration with the governorates and relevant agencies, has formed fieldwork teams to compile an inventory of buildings and accommodation that are a danger to residents and their visitors.

77. In April 2017, a pilot scheme will be introduced granting work permits without a sponsor to 48,000 foreigners. The scheme, which is part of the labour market reform project, will then be evaluated. In this way, Bahrain seeks to eliminate the causes of violation of the employment system, concealment and the black market in visas and work permits. This system will correct the situation of 8 per cent of the workers on the Bahraini labour market.

Social services
(recommendations 44, 47, 144)

78. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development oversees the implementation of social services programmes and has established a shelter and social assistance centre for women who are victims of domestic violence and a House of Dignity for beggars and vagrants where they are provided with various types of assistance in coordination and cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies. In addition, the Child Protection Centre now provides psychosocial and legal services, and health, development and preventive programmes to improve children's skills and abilities so that they are able to protect themselves and know their rights, and also to improve the skills and abilities of parents to protect their children. A free telephone hotline (with the number 998) has been set up for aid and support of the child.

79. Voluntary work is encouraged and the Ministry contributes to the Community Social Action Fund, which has an estimated budget of more than BD 300,000, to provide support to civil society organizations and institutions, matching their provision to social development projects, which are assessed by experts. The Ministry has allocated two thirds of the Fund to projects associated with national kinship. Sixty-five NGOs benefited from the financial grant programme in 2013, 66 in 2014 and 48 in 2015.

80. Every year the Ministry of Labour and Social Development National Centre for NGO Support organizes training workshops, meetings and conferences to promote the capacities of community-based organizations, of which there are more than 600. Over 90 workshops and conferences were held between 2013 and 2016.

81. A centre has been established to develop the capacities of volunteers by creating and organizing volunteering opportunities and training volunteers.

82. Social collaboration between the governmental, civil society and private sectors is encouraged and supported. The national centre periodically assesses civil society organizations involved in running development projects and programmes that come under the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, which include:

- The shelter for the victims of domestic violence;
- The House of Dignity, which provides social assistance;
- Mobile units for people with disabilities; and
- Day centres for parents in various parts of the country

National dialogue
(recommendations 40, 55, 129, 131)

83. The National Social Dialogue Conference was held from 2 to 25 July 2011. Its outcomes included several recommendations, including on the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, the situation and challenges of Bahraini women, and the situation, challenges and care of persons with disabilities. The Conference also recommended: amendments to the Constitution, which have been approved by the legislature, to reorganize the relationship between the executive and legislative branches in such a way as to emphasize the balance between the two; the application of additional safeguards when the King uses his right to dissolve the Council of Representatives and appoint members of the Shura Council; strengthening the role of the legislative authority to express confidence in the Government chosen by the King; and additional safeguards for the role of the Council of Representatives meeting to discuss questions to ministers.

84. The National Dialogue was consistent with the governmental and social approach the Government has constantly reaffirmed, promoting the participation of all sections of society, official and non-official bodies, in the process of reform and comprehensive sustainable development and accelerating delivery in light of the national unity of the Bahraini people and their social values.

85. The political aspect of the National Dialogue was examined for a full year in 2013 and 2014 under the leadership of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister. It ended in agreement upon a set of basic principles. Parliamentary and municipal elections were held in December 2014, when there was broad popular participation, 52.6 per cent of the electorate voting in the parliamentary elections and 60 per cent in the municipal elections.

B. Recommendations with partial support

86. Partial support for a recommendation means support for part of it and taking note of the other part, either because it conflicts with Sharia, the Constitution or national legislation, or because it requires further study.

International human rights treaties
(recommendations 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65)

87. Royal Decree No. 70 of 2014 has been promulgated amending certain provisions of Legislative Decree No. 5 of 2002 approving accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and reformulating certain reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the Convention. The amendment states the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to implementing the provisions of articles 2 and 16 of the Convention, without prejudice to the provisions of Sharia. Bahrain's absolute reservation with regard to article 15, paragraph 4, has become a commitment without prejudice to the provisions of Sharia. These amendments have been approved by the legislature.

88. The question of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance is still under discussion. It should be noted that, although Bahrain is not yet a party, the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry applied the standards established in the Convention when it carried out its investigations

into a series of allegations of enforced disappearance that were received in 2011 (including the period of the state of national safety). As a result of the investigations, all the allegations were rejected because no case of enforced disappearance could be verified. (Independent Commission of Inquiry Report, paragraph 1304.)

89. Bahrain is eager to cooperate with all the various international human rights mechanisms, such as the treaty committees, special rapporteurs, working groups and OHCHR, in addition to the special procedures, including:

(a) Bahrain is keen to cooperate fully with all mandate holders in the framework of special procedures and the Government continues to discuss the issue of certain mandate holders visiting Bahrain;

(b) Bahrain has responded to the allegations, urgent appeals and questionnaires received from special rapporteurs;

(c) Technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes with OHCHR in the human rights field began to come into effect in 2016.

C. Recommendations that have been noted (recommendations, 1, 4, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 110, 120)

90. Bearing in mind what was explained in the response of the Kingdom of Bahrain to these recommendations, where possible, Bahrain has taken the measures it can to apply the standards it has accepted. Regarding the question of its accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on abolition of the death penalty, there has been no change in Bahrain's position on this matter. The death penalty is imposed only in serious and dangerous situations, Bahraini law provides significant safeguards regarding its imposition and execution, and it is imposed only for a limited number of criminal offences. The Criminal Code provides the possibility of commutation of the death penalty to life imprisonment or a shorter period of imprisonment if the offence was committed in circumstances that justify commutation.

D. Normative and structural framework for the promotion of respect for and protection of human rights

91. The positive impact of the measures Bahrain has taken, including those mentioned above, to support the basic mechanisms for promoting respect for and protection of human rights is reflected in structures and legislation and in the introduction and implementation of policies and programmes that have ensured significant achievements in the areas of comprehensive development, through the steady encouragement of respect for and protection of human rights. In particular, these measures are supported by the normative and structural framework for promotion of respect for and protection of human rights, which is outlined in the following paragraphs.

1. Charter

92. The National Action Charter was issued in December 2000 and, on 14 February 2001, was adopted by a referendum on the draft charter, which resulted in the approval of 98.4 per cent of Bahrainis. The Charter places special emphasis, among other things, on determining present and future national lines of action and political and economic principles that support the democratic approach of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

93. The Charter sets out the principles that govern Bahraini society, describes the historical character of Bahrain, explains the basic elements of the society and the system of governance and parliamentary life. It also sets out the economic and social foundations of society, national security and Gulf and foreign relations.

2. Constitution[8]

94. The Constitution sets out rights and freedoms, affirms the principles of equality and the rule of law and organizes the relationship between the three branches of the State, the executive, the legislative and the judicial. Bahrain made important amendments to the Constitution in 2002 and 2012.

3. The law

95. The law guarantees rights and freedoms. Legislation and amendments thereto are promulgated in the framework of respect for the Constitution, through approval of the relevant decrees, including:

- The Private Sector Employment Act (No. 36 of 2012), which deals with several issues, including the employment contract, the protection of wages, end-of-service benefits, the right to annual leave, exemption from litigation fees and individual and collective dispute settlement procedures;[9] several of its provisions cover domestic workers;
- Act No. 34 of 2014 amending certain provisions of Act No. 26 of 2005 on political associations, which stipulates, among other things, that: "The funds of associations shall be considered public funds for the purposes of application of the provisions of the Criminal Code and the persons in charge of an association's affairs and those working for it shall be considered public servants for the purposes of application of the said Code"; "If the association has violated the provisions of the Constitution, this Act or any other law or its statutes, the Minister of Justice may ask the High Civil Court to order cessation of the association's activity for a period not exceeding three months during which the causes of the offence shall be removed"; and "the association shall not use religious preaching to promote or refer to its principles, objectives or programmes";
- Legislative Decree No. 23 of 2013 amending certain provisions of Legislative Decree No. 17 of 1976 on juveniles;[10]
- Legislative Decree No. 68 of 2014 amending certain provisions of Act No. 58 of 2006 on the protection of society from terrorist acts,[11] which stipulates, among other things: "The Office of the Prosecutor shall directly order that all data and information relating to the accounts, deposits, safety deposit boxes and safes at banks or other financial institutions or transactions related thereto be investigated or obtained, if that is necessary to uncover the truth in any of the offences set forth in this Act";
- Legislative Decree No. 22 of 2013 replacing article 11 of Legislative Decree No. 18 of 1973 on public meetings, marches and rallies, as amended, which stipulates, among other things, that a ruling must be issued by the competent court determining civil and criminal liability if, during the meeting or march of which it has been notified, there is a breach of public security or public order or harm to a third party or public or private property; and
- The Bahraini Nationality Act[12] of 1963 and the amendments thereto,[13] the recommendations of the National Council[14] and relevant decisions.[15]

4. International human rights obligations

96. The Kingdom of Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to guaranteeing respect for and protection of human rights by accepting international obligations on this matter, including:

(a) The accession of Bahrain to seven of the nine core international human rights conventions, including the International Covenants on Human Rights, and the Arab Charter on Human Rights;

(b) The publication of Cabinet Decision No. 01-2368 approving the signing by the Kingdom of Bahrain of the statutes of the Arab Court of Human Rights, which was established on the initiative of Bahrain and is an independent Arab judicial body that aims

to strengthen the will of States parties to implement their obligations regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Bahrain supported the Gulf Cooperation Council Human Rights Declaration issued by the High Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf at the conclusion of its 35th session on 9 December 2014;

(d) Bahrain supports the regional Arab human rights mechanisms established in the framework of the Charter of the League of Arab States, such as the Arab Standing Committee on Human Rights, and implements the Arab Plan for Human Rights Education.

5. Authorities and official bodies concerned with human rights, include:

97. The legislative authority, consisting of the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council, each of which has a human rights committee.

98. The judiciary, which, among other things, guarantees the right to litigation and judicial assistance.

99. The executive safeguards the interests of the State, outlines the public policies of the Government and oversees their implementation and the functioning of the apparatus of government.

100. Since the Foreign Ministry is the essential link between all the players concerned with the vital question of human rights, a Department of Human Rights Affairs[16] was set up in the Ministry under Legislative Decree No. 68 of 2016. The Foreign Minister chairs the High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights, which represents an important step towards integration and coordination among all the parties concerned with human rights and support for bilateral cooperation and cooperation with the United Nations in the framework of Bahrain's commitments.

101. The High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights has been established, the objectives of which include examining subjects related to the protection and promotion of human rights.

102. The Office of the Ombudsman has been established.[17] It enjoys administrative and financial independence and works in the Interior Ministry to ensure compliance with the laws of Bahrain, the professional standards of policing set forth in the Code of Conduct for Police Officers and the administrative regulations that govern the performance of civil servants, within a general framework that includes respect for human rights, the consolidation of justice and the rule of law and gaining public trust. It exercises its powers and duties with complete independence regarding complaints submitted to it about any military or civilian employee of the Ministry of Interior in the event of commission of a misdeed concerning, during or owing to the performance of his/her duties, and notifies the competent Interior Ministry authority so that disciplinary measures can be taken against the perpetrators or notifies the public prosecution office in cases that constitute a criminal offence. It also notifies the complainant and the subject of the complaint in a statement setting out the steps taken to examine the complaint and the findings. The Office of the Ombudsman Act was amended in 2013 to extend significantly the scope of its powers, including the requirement to notify it of deaths that occur in places of confinement and detention. The Office of the Ombudsman issued its first annual report in April 2014.

103. The Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission[18] has been set up to monitor prisons, detention centres, centres for the care of juveniles and detainees and other places in which people may be detained, such as general and psychiatric hospitals, to verify the conditions of detention and the treatment inmates receive in order to ensure that they are not subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. The Commission carries out its duties with complete freedom, impartiality, transparency and independence.

104. In implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, the Special Investigation Unit[19] was set up in the public prosecution office under Attorney-General's Decision No. 8 of 2012 to investigate cases of death, torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. The Unit is independent and publishes monthly reports on its work on social media. It has referred 51 cases to the criminal courts and 100 defendants

for trial, including 17 officers, and appealed against the verdicts handed down in 19 cases. In the cases in which the accused was found guilty, the sentences imposed range from one month to seven years in prison.

6. National mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, include:

The Supreme Council for Women[20]

105. The Supreme Council for Women was established under Royal Order No. 44 of 2001, comes directly under the Council of the King of Bahrain, has a legal personality and is independent. It serves as a reference regarding women's affairs for all official agencies and expresses opinions and makes decisions on matters directly or indirectly concerning the status of women. It is made up of 16 female members, who are public personalities, experienced in women's affairs and various activities and represent all sections of Bahraini society.

106. The Council carries out many activities in accordance with plans studied, including the National Plan for Advancement of Bahraini Women[21] 2013-2022. Its general secretariat has set up working groups to oversee implementation of all aspects of the Plan, such as the stability of the family, equal opportunities, lifelong learning, quality of life and the house of expertise. The secretariat working groups have begun field visits to key allies and partners in implementing the Plan in accordance with the priorities adopted, which are executive institutions closely linked to the basic outcomes of the work of the Council, so that the programmes and projects carried out by these institutions and which form part of its work programme have a budget allocated for the next two fiscal years.

National Human Rights Institution[22]

107. Following wide-ranging consultations with relevant civil society organizations and the two legislative authorities — the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council — as well as the advice of several legal experts, Act No. 6 of 2014 establishing the National Human Rights Institution was promulgated on 24 July 2014. It was amended by Act No. 20 of 2016 to reaffirm its independence in line with the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. (See paragraph 7.)

Institute for Political Development[23]

108. The Institute was established by Decree No. 39 of 2005, amended by Decree No. 41 of 2008 and Decree No. 81 of 2009. Within the fundamental framework of constitutional and legal principles, the Institute has several objectives, including spreading a culture of democracy, supporting and establishing the concept of sound democratic principles, providing training, studies and research programmes on constitutional and legal matters to different groups of people, and disseminating and developing political awareness among citizens in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Action Charter.

109. In addition to the foregoing, there are national committees, including:

- **The National Committee for the Development of Education and Training**, which oversees the quality control of educational outcomes and their suitability for the job market;
- **The National Committee for Childhood**, membership of which includes representatives of governmental authorities and relevant civil society organizations. It is concerned with everything to do with children;
- **The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking**, the members of which are from government agencies and civil society organizations concerned with human trafficking. It oversees implementation of the Human Trafficking Act (Law No. 1 of 2008); and
- **The Committee against Hatred and Sectarianism**,[24] which proposes and adopts policies and methodologies and develops effective programmes to tackle the problem of hate speech, which may be propagated through religious preaching, in

books, through the media, communications and education or through political and societal forces. It seeks to instil a spirit of tolerance, reconciliation and coexistence and promote the unifying factors in Bahraini society.

7. Non-governmental organizations

110. The Kingdom of Bahrain affirms the importance of the work of NGOs in encouraging respect for and protection of human rights. The number of NGOs in the country is increasing and reached 607 in November 2016. It should be noted that in the last three years four new rights associations have been established,[25] in addition to the nine already in existence. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development is preparing a law on non-governmental organizations to support the work of these institutions. The Ministry also works through the Community Social Action Fund, which has an estimated budget of more than BD 300,000, to provide support to civil society organizations and institutions, matching their provision to social development projects, which are assessed by experts. The Ministry has allocated two thirds of the Fund's budget to projects associated with national kinship. Sixty-five NGOs benefited from the financial grant programmes in 2013 and 66 in 2014.

8. National policies and strategies

111. Bahrain has drawn up several national plans and strategies that guarantee, assist, propagate and promote human rights at the national level. These include:

(a) Government Programme of Action 2015-2018[26]

In the preparation of its work programme (2015-2018) entitled "Towards the justice, security and well-being of society", the Government of Bahrain adopted the principle of balance between the potential and resources of Bahrain, the challenges it faces, the requirements and needs of citizens and residents, continued development and construction and an emphasis on the sustainable development of the Kingdom, at the same time taking care to promote individual rights, freedom of opinion and expression and respect for human rights and to work within a framework of constitutional and legal legitimacy.

In that sense, it is also taking the necessary steps to complete its review of legislation, laws and regulations in order to ensure that they comply with Bahrain's obligations under international and regional conventions and treaties to promote freedom of opinion and expression and human and individual rights and combat discrimination in all its forms.

Through the Programme of Action, the Government is endeavouring to bring about a society in which justice, security, stability and prosperity prevail, building upon previous achievements in a framework that ensures sustainable development and provides the necessary services to citizens, diversifies the national economic base, enhances competitiveness, develops an investment climate and strengthens the role of the private sector and human resources, as Bahrainis are the pivot, essence and engine of development.

The aims of the programme include the protection of the democratic political system and comprehensive development.

(b) Economic Vision 2030[27]

In October 2008, a comprehensive economic vision for the Kingdom of Bahrain was launched to give a clear direction to the continuing development of the Bahraini economy, which, in essence, reflects the fundamental common objective of building a better life for all Bahrainis. Economic Vision 2030 was launched after four years of intensive talks with a wide range of opinion leaders in the public and private sectors, including government institutions, specialized institutions, advisory institutions and global bodies. It focuses on the formulation of a vision of the Government, society and the economy based on the three essential guiding principles of sustainability, justice and competitiveness.

(c) **National Development Strategy 2015-2018**[28]

The National Development Strategy was prepared in connection with Economic Vision 2030 and is a road map for the national economy and government action. It focuses on consolidating the links between government policies and identifying the most important strategic initiatives to be implemented during this period.

(d) **National Childhood Strategy 2013-2016**;[29]

(e) **National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2012-2016**;[30] and

(f) **National Strategy for the Elderly**.[31]

112. Policies and measures have also been introduced to encourage respect for and protection of human rights. These include:

(a) Establishment of the High Authority for Information and Communications under Decree No. 47 of 2013;[32]

(b) The launching by the Supreme Judicial Council of a "future judges" project to train candidates for the judiciary in the capabilities and competencies needed by members of the judiciary.

IV. Challenges and obstacles

113. Bahrain continues its efforts at every level to encourage respect for and promote the protection of human rights, despite the challenges it faces, which include:

(a) The tense regional situation and the growing danger of extremism and terrorism, which have an impact on Bahrain and place an additional burden on the authorities that have to deal with the consequences;

(b) Attempts by some to exploit human rights issues wrongfully as a means of achieving narrow political objectives, while others resort to acts of violence and terrorism that threaten the right to life and hinder efforts towards stability and comprehensive development. Bahrain is resisting this by all legal means and in a framework of respect for human rights;

(c) Limited natural resources and the developments and disorders the world and the region have witnessed, including the global financial crisis, which hampered government efforts to consolidate economic growth and stability.

V. Voluntary commitments

115. Bahrain is working on:

(a) The promulgation of a consolidated law on family provisions;

(b) Putting in place family courts with all the judicial facilities and services related to the family, including taking due account of the specificity and nature of family disputes.

116. Work is under way on a new law on the press and the electronic media.

117. Bahrain is considering amending the Bahraini Citizenship Act to grant citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners in accordance with the rules regulating the granting of citizenship.

118. The application of policies and programmes on comprehensive and sustainable development continues. Bahrain will submit its first report on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July 2018.

119. Increased awareness in all areas of human rights is being promoted through the available means, including education and the media.

120. Within two years of the adoption of the universal periodic review report, Bahrain will submit a voluntary report on what has been accomplished.

VI. Conclusion

121. Bahrain is submitting its third report to the universal periodic review and reiterates its continued commitment to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms within the framework of its National Action Charter, the Constitution, legislation, its international obligations and the policy and programmes of the Government, and its intention to continue its efforts to build on the achievements in this area in terms of legislation, policy and action. We refer in this regard to what the political leadership of the country affirmed on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2016, when it affirmed its continued attention to achieving the various dimensions of comprehensive development, including the support and promotion of a culture of human rights through education and the media in order to strengthen community-building and to establish the foundations of a civilized society in which everyone enjoys their rights in accordance with the principle of the rule of law. In particular, the values of coexistence, tolerance, acceptance of others and equality have been the pillars of Bahraini society throughout the ages and have made Bahrain a homeland for all the different cultures and civilizations it has assimilated.

122. Bahrain looks forward to continued cooperation with the Human Rights Council, benefiting from interactive dialogue in the framework of the universal periodic review mechanism, and closer cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other interested parties to achieve the common goal of securing respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Notes

[1] جمعية رعاية الطفل والأمومة، جمعية مبادئ لحقوق الإنسان، الجمعية البحرينية لحقوق الإنسان، جمعية نهضة فتاة البحرين، الاتحاد النسائي البحريني.
[2] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/RCAB1414.pdf.
[3] مرفق (أ) جدول موجز لمتابعة التوصيات المقبولة الواردة في ثالثاً
[4] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/K1715.pdf.
[5] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/K5212.pdf.
[6] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/K1316.pdf.
[7] http://www.biciunit.bh/RecentLegislations/48-2011.pdf.
[8] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/.
[9] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/LegislationSearchDetails.aspx?id=2045.
[10] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/LegislationSearchDetails.aspx?id=30499.
[11] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/L6814.pdf.
[12] http://www.moj.gov.bh/default1d49.html?action=article&ID=872.
[13] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/K2114.pdf.
[14] http://www.bna.bh/portal/news/573180.
[15] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/RINT8916.pdf.
[16] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/D6816.pdf.
[17] http://www.ombudsman.bh/.
[18] http://www.pdrc.bh/.
[19] http://www.biciunit.bh/special-investigation-unit.html.
[20] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/O4401.pdf.
[21] http://www.scw.bh/ar/AboutCouncil/NationalPlan/Documents/plan2015.PDF.
[22] http://www.nihr.org.bh/.
[23] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/D3905.pdf.
[24] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/Media/LegalPDF/RCAB1714.pdf.
[25] جمعية المرصد البحريني لحقوق الإنسان، جمعية مبادئ لحقوق الإنسان، جمعية كرامة لحقوق الإنسان، جمعية معاً لحقوق الإنسان
[26] http://bna.bh/pdf/gov_program_2015_2018.pdf.
[27] https://issuu.com/economicdevelopmentboard/docs/bahrain_vision_2030.
[28] http://www.bahrainedb.com/_layouts/National-development-strategy/ar/document/files/basic-html/index.html.
[29] http://www.social.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/childhood%20strategy.pdf.
[30] http://www.mlsd.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/Disabled-people-strategy.pdf.
[31] http://www.mlsd.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/eldarlystra.pdf.
[32] http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh/LegislationSearchDetails.aspx?id=30358.

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Compilation on Bahrain

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1,2]

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Bahrain to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.[4] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) urged Bahrain to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[5] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[6] UNHCR recommended that Bahrain accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.[7]

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Bahrain to withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 9 (2) of the Convention on the

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Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[6] It also called upon Bahrain to reassess its reservations to articles 15 (4) and 16 of that Convention with a view to withdrawing them.[7] The United Nations country team noted that women's groups continued to perceive that the reservations to articles 15 (4) and 16 remained in place despite the approval by the parliament of Decree No. 70 of 2014, rewording the reservations made by Bahrain.[8]

4. The country team reported that, since the second cycle of the universal periodic review, OHCHR had aimed to increase its engagement with the Bahraini authorities while also maintaining its engagement with and support to civil society in implementing the recommendations arising from the universal periodic review. Several missions had been organized between December 2012 and May 2016.[9]

5. Bahrain contributed financially to OHCHR in 2013, 2014 and 2016.

6. Bahrain submitted a midterm report on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.[10]

III. National human rights framework[11]

7. The country team noted that the political situation in Bahrain had stagnated since the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2012. On the opening of a genuine, all-inclusive and effective national, social and political dialogue aimed at the reconciliation of the parties concerned, the three rounds of national dialogue had done little to change the political scene in the country.[12] Moreover, following the arrest of Khalil Marzooq in September 2013, the political party Al-Wefaq had boycotted the rounds of dialogue in protest, which had eventually led to the suspension of the dialogue on 8 January 2014. The authorities had attempted to restore the dialogue, but an escalation of tensions on the ground meant that the national dialogue had to be suspended again in September 2014.[13] OHCHR encouraged a genuine dialogue between the Government and the opposition without preconditions, in order to create an environment conducive to reconciliation.[14]

8. The country team reported that no amendments had been introduced to the Constitution following those made in May 2012. However, even those amendments had not met the expectations of the opposition. The elections held in November 2014, in line with the constitutional amendments, had been boycotted by the political opposition.[15]

9. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the statement by Bahrain that 19 of the 26 recommendations made in the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry had been implemented and recommended that Bahrain expedite the implementation of all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry to their full extent.[16] The country team reported the need to define a clear time frame for the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations on the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations.[17] The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that the human rights institutions had been strengthened with the establishment in March 2012 of a national commission tasked with implementing the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations, while, in a statement on 5 June 2016, the Chair of the Commission of Inquiry had said that "of the Commission's 26 recommendations, only 10 have been substantially implemented, while the other 16 have only been partially implemented".[18]

10. The country team noted that on 29 April 2014 the parliament had approved a new law on the National Institution for Human Rights, in line with the universal periodic review recommendations.[19] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the establishment of the Institution and recommended that Bahrain strengthen its

independence, effectiveness and visibility in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).[32]

11. The country team noted that Bahrain had established the independent Special Investigations Unit and the Ombudsman's Office, and that the number of people reaching out to the Ombudsman had increased to 992, of whom 305 were complainants. It also noted, however, that the Ombudsman's Office did not investigate claims of torture, which it referred to the Special Investigations Unit; 55 cases had already been referred. The head of the Unit stated that 15 officers and 55 personnel had been identified as being involved in acts of torture and ill-treatment.[33]

12. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that Bahrain should be encouraged to further include human rights principles in the academic curricula, to pursue policies and programmes in the education of citizenship and human rights as best practices (particularly policies and programmes aimed at increasing awareness of human rights in Bahrain) and to strengthen education on and awareness of human rights at the national level.[34]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination[35]

13. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Bahrain to modify or repeal, without delay, discriminatory legislation, including discriminatory provisions in its Penal Code and Nationality Law, as well as in family matters. It recommended that Bahrain increase its efforts to raise the awareness of the chambers of the parliament, religious and community leaders, civil society organizations and the general public regarding the importance of supporting the acceleration of legal reform.[36]

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

14. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) acknowledged the commitments made by the Government towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and recommended that Bahrain develop a national programme focusing on the protection of basic human rights relating to the environment.[37]

15. UNEP recommended that Bahrain make a more direct link between the environment, climate change adaptation, sustainable development and human rights, and that it incorporate environmental issues into its human rights law (see targets 3.9 and 6.3 of the Goals), make efforts to address environmental pollution (all the targets of Goal 12) and incorporate sustainable development into the education curriculum (target 4.7).[38]

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

16. UNDP noted that the Bahraini authorities had used the antiterrorism law to detain and prosecute journalists and rights activists for belonging to "terrorist groups". In December 2014, the authorities had amended the law to extend the maximum period that

someone could be held in pretrial detention to seven months and to expand police powers to enable officers to implement various measures while investigating acts of violence.[29]

17. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Bahrain ensure that the July 2013 revision of the Law on the Protection of Society from Acts of Terrorism (2006) did not have a negative impact on women on the basis of their political affiliations.[30]

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[31]

18. The country team stated that Bahrain had noted all the recommendations on the death penalty made during the previous cycle.[32] According to reports, from 2014 to June 2016 seven people had been sentenced to death. Five of the death sentences had been handed down for charges related to involvement in terrorist acts.[33] The country team and OHCHR criticized the trials, considering them unfair, and the court rulings, which were allegedly based on confessions obtained under torture; moreover, the defendants' allegations of torture had not been properly investigated.[34] OHCHR was appalled at the execution on 15 January 2017 of three men convicted for killing three police officers in 2014, and urged Bahrain to impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.[35]

19. The country team stated that on 10 March 2015 riots had erupted in Jaw prison following a dispute between family members and police officers during a family visit. The prison administration had responded with excessive force.[36] OHCHR had expressed concern about the harsh treatment of the detainees, as the security forces had reportedly used rubber bullets, tear gas and shotguns. After the riots had been quelled, the detainees were allegedly forced to spend 10 days in the open courtyard of the prison before being placed in two large plastic tents. Around 100 other detainees accused of instigating the unrest had subsequently been transferred to another section of the prison and had allegedly been subjected to ill-treatment and torture. OHCHR urged the authorities to conduct impartial, speedy and effective investigations and to ensure that any victims of torture or ill-treatment had access to appropriate remedies.[37]

20. The country team reported that the International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations had recalled its previous comments regarding legislation allowing the imposition of compulsory prison labour, in circumstances that were incompatible with the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).[38] The ILO Committee of Experts noted that penalties of imprisonment were not limited to acts of violence or incitement to violence, but included political coercion and punishment for the peaceful expression of opinions critical of government policies and the established political system, as well as of various non-violent actions affecting the Constitution or the functioning of political associations and the organization of meetings and demonstrations. It hoped that Bahrain would take the measures necessary to ensure that no prison sentence involving compulsory labour was imposed on persons who, without making recourse to violence, expressed political opinions or views opposed to the established political, social or economic system.[39]

21. The country team noted the establishment of the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission in 2013 to monitor places of detention and assess the condition of detainees in various facilities. It reported in 2015 that the total number of prisoners (2,468) exceeded by 15 per cent the capacity of the prisons. It also noted that, of the total number of prisoners, 1,021 had been detained for "riots", a category that included such acts as bombing, terrorism, possession of weapons and explosive material, attempted murder and assault on a police officer.[40]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[41]

22. The country team noted that the Constitution forbade torture and that the Penal Code criminalized torture. Regarding the recommendations on investigations into cases of torture, deaths in custody and unlawful killings and on prosecutions of alleged perpetrators of such crimes, to hold accountable officials of all ranks, it was reported that by the end of 2015 the Special Investigations Unit had received 298 cases. Little information was available on the exact number of perpetrators who had been tried and sentenced or on the redress measures, if any, afforded to the victims.[42] The country team emphasized that reports of cases of torture inside and outside of detention facilities, during and prior to detention and during interrogation remained widespread. The number of cases received by the Unit and the Ombudsman's Office testified to that. International and national human rights organizations too reported on such cases; their claims were based on interviews with victims.[43]

23. The country team reported that no information had been made available on the results of the investigation into the March 2015 riots in Jaw prison. According to the Ombudsman's Chairperson, the office had received 15 complaints following the event, which it had referred to the Special Investigations Unit.[44]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[45]

24. The country team reported that the King had issued Law No. 12/2016 amending some of the provisions of Law No. 26/2005 regulating political societies. Law No. 12/2016 amended the method and procedures for forming the organs of such societies and the choice of their leaders, who must not give religious speeches, sermons or guidance, not even without remuneration. It banned the simultaneous membership in a political society and engagement in religious preaching, guidance or speeches. Under no circumstances could anyone combine religious preaching and membership in a political society. The amendment, designed to prevent the exploitation of places of worship and the politicization of religion, had been endorsed by the parliament.[46]

25. A group of United Nations human rights independent experts[47] expressed concern about the systematic harassment of the Shia population by the authorities. They called on Bahrain to stop the arbitrary arrests and issuance of summons, to release all those detained for exercising their rights and to lift the restrictions on movement, including the travel ban, imposed on certain Shia religious leaders and human rights defenders. A wide range of charges had been brought against Shias, including illegal gathering, inciting hatred against the regime, money-laundering and acts of terrorism in relation to peaceful gatherings and religious congregations and the peaceful expression of their beliefs; those charges were considered to be groundless accusations. The independent experts stressed that such charges should not be used as a pretext to restrict freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly and freedom of religion or belief. They urged the Government to enter into a dialogue with all relevant parties in order to prevent unnecessary conflict and violence.[48]

26. The independent experts and the country team were concerned that Sheikh Ali al-Salman, an opposition politician and religious figure, had been arrested on 28 December 2014, two days after he had been re-elected Secretary-General of Al-Wefaq, the main opposition political party in Bahrain. The arrest of Mr. Al-Salman had triggered a surge in the number of street protests and clashes with security forces. The independent experts expressed concern about allegations that his hearing had not taken place in accordance with due process standards. They urged the Government to promptly release Mr. Al-Salman and all those who had been detained for the peaceful expression of their views. They condemned the fact that Mr. Al-Salman had been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment on charges of inciting violence after a court of appeal had more than doubled his prison term,

which had been four years. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression said: "The sentencing of Sheikh Ali al-Salman seems to confirm a worrying trend of political repression further shrinking the space for any form of dissent in Bahrain today". The experts concluded that the detention was arbitrary.[49]

27. OHCHR and the country team reported that in July 2016 the Bahraini High Civil Court had ordered the dissolution of Al-Wefaq and the liquidation of its assets. They deeply regretted the decision. It was also reported that the court hearing on the ban had been carried out without due regard for fair trial principles. OHCHR and the country team urged the authorities and the national human rights institutions to take immediate confidence-building measures to ensure that the rights to freedom of peaceful expression, assembly and association were respected and to review the decision to ban Al-Wefaq and other organizations whose activities had been suspended for the peaceful exercise of their rights.[50]

28. UNESCO noted that in 2014 the Government had amended the Penal Code[51] to make defamation punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of up to 10,000 Bahraini dinars for anyone who publicly insulted the King, flag or national emblem of Bahrain.[52] UNESCO recommended decriminalizing defamation and placing it under the scope of a civil code that was in accordance with international standards.[53]

29. UNESCO stated that freedom of speech was guaranteed under the Constitution but that the 2002 Press and Publications Law required all journalists working with international media to obtain a licence, which must be renewed annually, from the Ministry of Information Affairs.[54] UNESCO emphasized that the country team had noted that the Ministry had issued Edict No. 68/2016 to regulate the online activities of newspapers, requiring them to acquire a supplementary licence to publish online, imposing restrictions on electronic media, requesting print media outlets to apply annually for a licence and not permitting live streaming. Article 19 of the Press and Publications Law reaffirmed the Ministry's authority to license publications and to ban those that "harmed the regime, the official State religion, morality or different confessions in a way likely to cause a breach of the peace". Journalists' sources did not explicitly enjoy legal protection and there was no press council. Furthermore, the Minister for Information Affairs had issued a decision in 2016 instructing Internet service providers to install a system to filter out and block certain websites that were viewed by the central administration as illegal or restricted in Bahrain.[55]

30. The country team reported that freedom of information and access to information were not guaranteed in the Constitution, but that the Press and Publications Law provided for "any restraints on flow of information or that might cause unequal access to information for newspapers or disrupt citizens' right to knowledge are prohibited if they do not violate public security and the nation's supreme interests".[56] UNESCO encouraged Bahrain to introduce a freedom-of-information law in accordance with international standards and recommended that it align its current practices with international standards. It recommended that Bahrain further facilitate the introduction of self-regulatory mechanisms.[57]

31. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders was extremely concerned about clauses, such as articles 214 and 216 of the Penal Code, that criminalized offending the King, the flag or the national emblem of Bahrain, as well as the National Assembly and other State institutions. The broad scope of article 165 of the Constitution was being used to silence a wide range of critical speech considered to be hostile towards the Government. The Special Rapporteur expressed his grave concerns to the Government concerning the crackdown against Bahraini human rights defenders, including Maytham al-Salman and Abdulhadi al-Khawaja. He repeatedly urged the authorities to review laws and practices to ensure that they were compliant with the obligations of Bahrain under human

rights law, especially the freedoms of expression and association and the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of one's liberty.[58]

32. The country team and OHCHR reported that freedom of expression was being targeted in law and in practice. Many human rights defenders and political activists faced trials over statements made on social media. The country team and OHCHR were seriously concerned about the ongoing prosecution of the President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, Nabeel Rajab, who had been arrested on 13 June 2016. Mr. Rajab had been convicted and then pardoned for tweets he had written in 2014. On 5 September 2016, he had also been charged with "intentionally broadcasting false news and malicious rumours abroad, impairing the prestige of the State". That charge carried a sentence of at least one year's imprisonment. OHCHR emphasized that criticizing the Government should not constitute grounds for detention or prosecution and called on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Rajab. It also urged the Government to take all steps necessary to secure the right to freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with fundamental principles set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[59] The Committee against Torture drew the attention of Bahrain to information received regarding the arrest of Mr. Rajab and urged the Government to provide, as a matter of urgency, information on the measures taken to implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, especially its article 13.[60]

33. The country team was concerned with the recent measures adopted by the authorities restricting the movement of citizens. It reported that since May 2016 the authorities had allegedly imposed travel bans on several human rights defenders. Furthermore, following the revocation of Sheikh Issa Qasim's citizenship, the authorities had imposed restrictions on the movement of people to the village of Duraz in an attempt to restrict gatherings and sit-ins by supporters of the Sheikh.[61]

34. On ensuring that measures are implemented to guarantee the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, the country team reported that, since August 2013 and following the amendments made to article 11 of the Law on Public Gathering, the authorities had imposed a ban on public demonstrations in Manama.[62] The country team stated that, according to recent reports by human rights groups, between February 2011 and the end of 2014, a total of 8,824 people, including 286 women and 720 children, had been arrested.[63]

35. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the information provided by Bahrain that it was revising the draft law on civil organizations and institutions. It was concerned that under Law No. 21/1989, on associations, women's freedom of association was being hindered by lengthy registration procedures and excessive supervision.[64]

36. The country team observed that, with regard to the recommendations on empowering women economically, politically and socially, on eliminating discrimination against women and on strengthening women's roles in society, women's representation in decision-making remained limited. Women's participation in the economic sector remained low and many women who had been dismissed from work following the 2011 events had not been re-instituted.[65] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regretted that women continued to be underrepresented in political and public life, in particular in the parliament and in local councils, and in decision-making positions. It called upon Bahrain to increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and to promote women in leadership positions.[66]

37. The same Committee was particularly concerned about allegations that, in the aftermath of the political events of February/March 2011, some women had experienced ill-

treatment and intimidation by law enforcement officials and dismissals, suspensions and downgrading of professional positions in the public and private sectors, in addition to various other forms of retribution for their civic engagement, including detention and revocation of nationality, and that a number of women remained in detention. It recommended that Bahrain ensure that any sanctions against women who had peacefully participated in or had appeared to support the events were immediately discontinued and that women did not suffer from their political affiliations, were immediately reinstated in the posts they occupied and were compensated and rehabilitated.[67]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[68]

38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its concern about the prevalence and extent of trafficking in girls and women to Bahrain for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation. It recommended adopting and implementing a national strategy against trafficking that included criminal justice measures to prosecute and punish traffickers.[69]

5. Right to privacy and family life[70]

39. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned that under existing laws women continued to be denied equal rights with men with regard to family relations, in particular marriage, the legal age of marriage, divorce, child custody, guardianship and inheritance. It encouraged Bahrain to adopt a unified family law that provided for equality and effective access to justice in family issues.[71]

40. The same Committee noted with interest the adoption of the first part of Law No. 19/2009 on family rulings, which pertains to family issues within the Sunni community. It remained concerned that the lack of a uniform family code and the fact that the law does not apply in Shiite courts left Shiite women unprotected by a codified personal status law.[72] The country team noted that women's groups were still pressing for a unified personal status law for all citizens. However, the issue was a matter of intense debate between the Sunni and Shia communities in Bahrain. Shia religious scholars demanded a constitutional guarantee that their personal status law could not be amended. The debate had postponed any actual work on developing a unified personal status law that was in line with international standards.[73]

41. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed serious concerns about the discrimination and legal restrictions that women continued to face in the context of divorce. It called upon Bahrain to fully harmonize Law No. 19/2009 with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so as to eliminate restrictions on and discrimination against women in matters relating to divorce.[74]

42. The same Committee reiterated its recommendation on raising the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years and to take specific measures to end the practice of polygamy.[75]

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[76]

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that women had been disproportionately affected by unemployment and discrimination relating to work and that a persistent wage gap between women and men existed in practice.[77] The same Committee and the ILO Committee of Experts noted the adoption of Law No. 36/2012, on labour law in the private sector, and recommended that Bahrain

ensure that restrictions on women's work did not perpetuate occupational segregation or stereotypes regarding the roles and capabilities of women. They urged Bahrain to define and expressly prohibit sexual harassment in employment and occupation, and to take practical measures to prevent such harassment, including by adopting legislation.[78]

44. The country team added that the Committee had recalled its previous comments urging the Government to take steps to ensure that the new labour law included provisions explicitly defining and prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination, on all grounds, with respect to all aspects of employment and occupation and covering all workers, including domestic workers. The Committee noted that the labour law did not define discrimination and did not appear to prohibit indirect discrimination.[79]

2. Right to health

45. The country team observed that Bahrain had several structures that supported the progressive realization of the right to health but that there was still room for improvement.[80]

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that female migrant workers had difficulty in gaining access to free emergency health services. It recommended that Bahrain ensure that female migrant workers had access to free emergency medical services.[81]

47. The same Committee was concerned that abortion had been criminalized even when the pregnant woman was the victim of rape or incest. It recommended that Bahrain consider making legal amendments to allow abortion in cases of rape and incest, with a view to protecting the best interests of the victim, and to remove punitive measures imposed on women who undergo an abortion in such cases.[82]

3. Right to education[83]

48. UNESCO recommended that Bahrain further strengthen public education, make legislation and policies more accessible for monitoring by public institutions and, since women represent half of society, ensure that they had the same opportunities in the higher education system as men to receive scholarships and study placements.[84]

49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women commended Bahrain for the advances made in the education of girls and women and the importance given to their enrolment in non-traditional vocational training. It recommended that Bahrain further diversify the educational and vocational choices and provide tabulated data.[85]

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[86]

50. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Bahrain to prohibit and sanction both direct and indirect discrimination against women. It recommended strengthening education and training programmes, in particular for judges, lawyers and law enforcement personnel, on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its direct applicability in national courts.[87]

51. The same Committee noted the existence of a bill to combat domestic violence (the drafting of which had begun in 2007) that was currently under consideration by the chambers of the parliament. It was deeply concerned about the slowness of the process. It urged Bahrain to expedite the adoption of the bill to combat domestic violence, criminalize violence against women and provide for effective remedies and sanctions.[88]

52. The same Committee reiterated its concern that several provisions of the Penal Code condoned acts of violence against women by exempting perpetrators from punishment. In particular, it exempted perpetrators of rape from prosecution and punishment if they married their victims. Moreover, article 334 of the Penal Code reduced the penalties for perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of so-called honour. The Committee urged Bahrain to revise the Penal Code, repealing any provisions that condoned acts of violence against women, such as articles 334 and 353, and including provisions to criminalize marital rape.[89]

53. The same Committee reiterated its concern about the limited support provided by the Supreme Council for Women to non-governmental organizations.[90]

54. The Committee urged Bahrain to ensure that women and girls who were victims of violence, including domestic violence, had access to effective protection and that perpetrators were prosecuted and punished.[91] It recommended that Bahrain ensure access to legal aid for victims and to the necessary assistance, support and protection.[92]

2. Children[93]

55. The country team noted that, through Royal Decree No. 23 of 2013, the authorities had amended the scope of risk of delinquency for juveniles (children under 15 years of age) to include participation in a demonstration, a march, a public gathering or a political sit-in alongside gambling, prostitution etc. According to the Decree, parents of at-risk juveniles were subject to a fine and or imprisonment.[94] In 2012, the King had issued a law on children's rights but violations continued to be committed against children. In 2014, 28 children had been detained.[95]

3. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[96]

56. The ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to ensure the effective protection of all migrant workers against discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, colour, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin, and to ensure that they had access to appropriate procedures and remedies.[97]

57. The country team estimated that the total number of migrants had reached 729,357, or 54.7 per cent of the population, of which women constituted 27.8 per cent.[98]

58. The country team observed that Law No. 36/2012 covered migrant workers but did not offer protection for migrant domestic workers.[99] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the limited scope of application of the law, given the many cases of violence, abuse and exploitation experienced by women migrant workers, most of whom were employed as domestic workers. It called upon Bahrain to strengthen the legal protection of women migrant workers.[100]

59. The same Committee commended Bahrain for the adoption of decision No. 79 (2009), aimed at reforming the sponsorship system, but was concerned that conditions in employment contracts set by employers could undermine the purpose of the decision.[101]

60. UNHCR reported that Bahrain did not have domestic legislation on refugees.[102] It noted that the absence of a designated national department for refugees and asylum seekers created confusion for people seeking protection and hindered the work of international organizations. UNHCR recommended creating such a body within the Ministry of the Interior to facilitate the identification and, therefore, the protection of persons in need and adopting national refugee legislation in order to better frame the rights and obligations of refugees and asylum seekers, including the right to seek asylum.[103]

4. Stateless persons[104]

61. UNHCR estimated that there were approximately 1,000 persons who were stateless in Bahrain, mainly because their nationality had been revoked. Several Bahraini nationals, including Shias and Sunnis, whose nationality had been revoked had been left stateless. UNHCR recommended that Bahrain amend article 10 (c) of the 1963 Citizenship Act, to bring it into line with international standards.[105] A group of experts[106] was concerned about the systematic harassment by the authorities of Shias, many of whom had been stripped of citizenship. They observed that the authorities were using the Citizenship Act and the "protection of society agains: acts of terror" law to revoke citizenship. They urged the Government to enter into a dialogue with all relevant parties in order to prevent unnecessary conflict and violence.[107] The country team stated that Shia religious leaders were repeatedly intimidated and attacked.[108] Since 2012, the authorities had revoked the citizenship of over 250 religious figures, human rights defenders and political activists. On 6 November 2012, the Bahraini authorities had announced the revocation of the citizenship of 31 activists (members of parliament, religious men and political activists). The statement of the Ministry of the Interior indicated that the action was in line with article 10 (c) of the Citizenship Act. In 2014, the law had been amended to allow the Minister of the Interior to revoke, with the approval of the cabinet, the citizenship of those "causing damage to the interest of the State" or "those who are disloyal". In September 2014, nine individuals had been stripped of their nationality by court order. In February 2015, the Ministry of the Interior had announced the revocation of the citizenship of 72 Bahrainis, 56 of whom had been stripped of their nationality in accordance with the newly amended antiterrorism law (Decree No. 68 of 2014). In addition to revoking citizenship, the Bahraini authorities had started deporting those stripped of their citizenship. More than five persons had been deported since late 2014, a measure that had resulted in suffering to them and their families.[109]

62. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that women still did not enjoy equal rights to nationality.[110] The country team and UNHCR reported that since the recommendations on that topic had been adopted during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, Bahrain had not adopted any bill to amend the 1963 Citizenship Act to enable Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men to confer their nationality on their children.[111] Nonetheless, the Act allowed mothers to confer their nationality on their children under certain conditions, namely if the father was unknown or stateless. However, women were still unable to confer their nationality on their children on an equal basis with men. The country team and UNHCR encouraged Bahrain to amend the Act.[112] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the slow pace of the adoption of the draft amendments to the Act and expressed special concern that such amendments would not automatically grant the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners the nationality of their mothers, but would only codify the present system. It urged Bahrain to expedite the adoption of the amendments to the Act to bring it into full compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[113] The Committee welcomed the Royal Order of 2011 granting Bahraini nationality to 335 children and the cabinet decision of January 2014 granting Bahraini nationality to the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners, subject to certain conditions.[114] The country team stated that little was known about the criteria used for selecting the children.[115] The Committee was concerned about the situation of stateless persons, including the possibility of children of Bahraini women married to foreigners becoming stateless.[116]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Bahrain will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BHSession27.aspx.
[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.1-115.20, 115.54, 115.57-115.67, 115.79, 115.157 and 115.163.
[3] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, para. 49.
[4] Ibid., para. 54.
[5] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21092&LangID=E.
[6] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, para. 34, and UNHCR submission to the universal periodic review of Bahrain, pp. 4-5.
[7] UNHCR submission, pp. 3-4.
[8] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 9-10 and 33-34.
[9] Ibid., paras. 43-44.
[10] United Nations country team submission to the universal periodic review of Bahrain, p. 2.
[11] Ibid.
[12] The report is available from www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx and www.upr.bh/index.php/progress-report-2014.
[13] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.21-115.27, 115.29-115.30, 115.32-115.38, 115.40-115.41, 115.44, 115.46, 115.48-115.50, 115.52-115.53, 115.55, 115.68, 115.77, 115.88, 115.90, 115.92, 115.95-115.96, 115.102-115.105, 115.113, 115.119, 115.129, 115.131, 115.139, 115.141-115.144, 115.151-115.154, 115.157, 115.160, 115.162, 115.164 and 115.166-115.168.
[14] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.40, 115.55, 115.129, 115.131 and 115.134.
[15] Country team submission, p. 1. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.40 (Mexico), 115.55 (Jordan), 115.129 (Islamic Republic of Iran), 115.131 (Uruguay) and 115.134 (Jordan).
[16] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16043&LangID=E.
[17] Country team submission, p. 1. For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/21/6, para. 115.50.
[18] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 29-30.
[19] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.28 (Norway), 115.43 (Sweden), 115.107 (Republic of Korea), 115.124 (Denmark), 115.127 (Thailand), 115.132 (Qatar), 115.133 (Egypt), 115.134 (Jordan), 115.135 (Kuwait), 115.136 (Oman) and 115.137 (Saudi Arabia).
[20] Country team submission, pp. 2-3.
[21] Ibid., 2016, p. 3. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.34 (Indonesia), 115.35 (Maldives) and 115.36 (Poland).
[22] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 47-48.
[23] Country team submission, pp. 3-4. See also the third annual report of the Ombudsman's Office, available from www.ombudsman.bh/mcms-store/pdf/862-Ombudsman%20Annual%20Report%20E%202015-2016%20L.R-120350.pdf.
[24] UNESCO submission to the universal periodic review of Bahrain, pp. 7 and 14-15. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.152 (Austria), 115.166 (Malaysia) and 115.167 (Senegal).
[25] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/21/6, para. 115.70 (United Arab Emirates).
[26] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 13-14.
[27] Country team submission, pp. 11-12.
[28] Ibid., pp. 11-12.
[29] Ibid., p. 11.
[30] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 29-30.
[31] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.78, 115.80-115.83, 115.89, 115.120 and 115.121.
[32] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.19 (France), 115.51 (Senegal), 115.78 (Austria), 115.80 (Spain), 115.81 (Italy), 115.82 (Germany) and 115.83 (Argentina).
[33] Country team submission, p. 5.

[34] Ibid., and www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21092&LangID=E.
[35] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21092&LangID=E.
[36] Country team submission, pp. 6-7.
[37] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16043&LangID=E.
[38] Country team submission, p. 5.
[39] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation on the implementation by Bahrain of the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105). Available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3182395:NO.
[40] Country team submission, p. 4.
[41] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.28, 115.31, 115.42-115.43, 115.45, 115.56, 115.84-115.87, 115.98, 115.106-115.112, 115.114-115.118, 115.123-115.125, 115.127-115.128, 115.130 and 115.132-115.137.
[42] Country team submission, p. 3. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.85 (Italy), 115.86 (Austria), 115.87 (Czechia), 115.108 (Germany), 115.111 (Switzerland), 115.112 (Norway) and 115.121 (Finland).
[43] Country team submission, p. 7.
[44] Ibid., pp. 6-7.
[45] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.99, 115.126, 115.145, 115.147-115.150, 115.155-115.156, 115.158, 115.161 and 115.163.
[46] Country team submission, pp. 8-9.
[47] The experts were the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.
[48] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20375&LangID=E.
[49] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20045&LangID=E.
[50] Country team submission, pp. 8-9. See also www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20284&LangID=E.
[51] See www.unodc.org/res/cld/document/bhr/1976/bahrain_penal_code_html/Bahrain_Penal_Code_1976.pdf.
[52] Country team submission, p. 2.
[53] UNESCO submission, p. 15.
[54] Ibid., pp. 13-14.
[55] Country team submission, pp. 7-8. See also UNESCO submission, pp. 13-14.
[56] Country team submission, p. 7.
[57] UNESCO submission, pp. 13-16.
[58] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=18471&LangID=E. See also www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15460&LangID=E, and www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17252&LangID=E.
[59] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21061&LangID=E and Country team submission, p. 8. See also www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15135&LangID=E.
[60] Letter dated 13 May 2015 from the Committee against Torture addressed to the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/BHR/INT_CAT_RLE_BHR_7717_E.pdf.
[61] Country team submission, p. 7.
[62] Ibid., p. 8. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.24 (Slovakia), 115.27 (Ireland), 115.98 (United States of America), 115.99 (Canada), 115.160 (Costa Rica), 115.161 (Australia) and 115.163 (Japan).
[63] Country team submission, p. 8.
[64] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 30-31.

[65] Country team submission, pp. 4-5. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.39 (Cuba), 115.48 (Bangladesh), 115.49 (Egypt), 115.50 (Oman), 115.51 (Senegal), 115.52 (United Arab Emirates), 115.71 (Morocco), 115.73 (Chile), 115.77 (Nicaragua) and 115.96 (Argentina).
[66] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 27-28.
[67] Ibid., paras. 29-30.
[68] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.91, 115.94, 115.97, 115.100-115.101, 115.122, 115.146 and 115.159.
[69] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 25-26.
[70] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.75 (India), 115.138 (Chile) and 115.140 (Japan).
[71] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 43-44.
[72] Ibid.
[73] Country team submission, p. 7.
[74] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 45-46.
[75] Ibid., paras. 43-44. See also CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 39.
[76] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.175-115.176.
[77] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 37-38.
[78] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation on the implementation by Bahrain of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID:3084466. See also CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 37-38.
[79] Country team submission, p. 4. See also the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation on the implementation by Bahrain of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0:NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3084466:NO.
[80] Country team submission, pp. 9-10.
[81] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 41-42.
[82] Ibid.
[83] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.169-115.172.
[84] UNESCO submission, pp. 11 and 15.
[85] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 35-36.
[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.39, 115.51, 115.69 and 115.71-115.74.
[87] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 11-12.
[88] Ibid., paras. 21-22.
[89] Ibid., paras. 21-22.
[90] Ibid., paras. 15-16.
[91] Ibid., paras. 21-22.
[92] Ibid., paras. 25-26.
[93] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/21/6, para. 115.29.
[94] Country team submission, p. 5.
[95] Ibid.
[96] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.76 and 115.173-115.174.
[97] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation on the implementation by Bahrain of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), available from: www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3084466:NO.
[98] Country team submission, p. 10.
[99] Ibid., pp. 10-11.
[100] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 39-40.
[101] Ibid.
[102] UNHCR submission, p. 1.
[103] Ibid., p. 3.
[104] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.75, 115.95-115.96 and 115.140-115.143.
[105] Ibid., p. 4.

[106] The experts were the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

[107] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20375&LangID=E.

[108] Country team submission, p. 8.

[109] Ibid., pp. 5-6. See also www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14533&LangID=E.

[110] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 33-34.

[111] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.75, 115.95 and 115.142.

[112] Country team submission, p. 6, and UNHCR submission, pp. 2-3. For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.75 (India), 115.95 (Uruguay) and 115.142 (Sudan).

[113] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 33-34.

[114] Ibid.

[115] Country team submission, p. 6.

[116] See CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paras. 33-34.

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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Bahrain*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 43 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations[2] and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[3]

2. Four Freedoms Forum (FFF) and Mabade'a recommended Bahrain to provide a roadmap to ensure ratification of all United Nations human rights treaties.[4] Alkarama, JS4, JS9 and ADHRB recommended ratifying the Convention against Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), the two OP-ICCPR, and OP-CAT.[5] JS7 recommended ratifying the Second OP-ICCPR and align its legislation with the Protocol.[6] JS11, HRF and Mabade'a recommended acceding to OP-CAT.[7] BYLA recommended ratifying OP-CEDAW.[8] JS9 urged Bahrain to consider ratifying the ICRMW and the ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.[9]

3. JS9 and ICSHF urged Bahrain to join the International Criminal Court.[10] JS10 recommended Bahrain to accede to and fully implement the 1954 and 1961 statelessness

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

conventions.[11] ODVV urged to ratify the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the additional protocol.[12]

4. NIHR and BYLA recommended revising Bahrain reservations to CEDAW that do not contradict with Islamic Sharia provisions.[13] JS5, JS8 and JS10 recommended Bahrain to fully lift reservation on Paragraph (2) Article (9) and ensure full compliance with CEDAW.[14]

5. MCHR urged signing and ratifying the Statute of the Arab Court for Human Rights and withdrawing all reservations on the Arab Charter for Human Rights.[15]

6. AI welcomed Bahrain's engagement with the UPR process, and for having submitted a mid-term report in 2012 on the implementation of second UPR cycle recommendations.[16]

7. Nine submissions recommended Bahrain to issue open invitation for Human Rights Council Special Procedures (SP) mandate holders, noting that it has not allowed any visit since its last review, despite accepting related recommendations.[17] Twelve submissions requested full cooperation with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Torture by inviting the mandate holder immediately noting that approximately 9 recommendations called for banning torture and allowing prisons inspection.[18] Twelve submissions observed that the visit requests of the Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in 2011, Human Rights Defenders in 2012, the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in 2014 and Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, remained unanswered.[19] GIDHR, JS7 and JS17 urged the SR on freedom of religion or belief to request a visit to Bahrain.[20] JS6 called for an urgent visit of the SR on the Independence of Judges to Bahrain.[21] JS7 and JS17 recommended extending an invitation to the SR on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions.[22]

8. AI, Alkarama, JS9, JS14 and JS2 recalled that during the 30th session of the Human Rights Council, 33 countries urged Bahrain to implement fully the recommendations of the Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) that was established to investigate the protests in 2011. They also urged implementing the UPR recommendations and to strengthen cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).[23] JS14 recommended inviting OHCHR to open an office in Bahrain to provide training and monitor the government's progress on implementation of the recommendations.[24]

9. Alkarama, NIHR and Mabade'a called on Bahrain to submit all periodic reports to the UN human rights treaties on time.[25]

B. National human rights framework[26]

10. Alkarama noted that in 2012, the High Coordinating Committee was established and tasked with the preparation of the Human Rights National Plan of Action. In 2014, it was restructured and is now chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.[27] BHRWS observed that Bahrain does not have a human rights strategy.[28]

11. AI, Alkarama JS16 and JS17 noted that although the government established the Bahrain National Institute for Human Rights (NIHR) in 2009, it has failed to bring it into full compliance with the Paris Principles. In 2016, the NIHR was accredited with "B" status by the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights'. They recommended making necessary reforms to improve the NIHR's compliance with the Paris Principles to be upgraded to "A" status.[29]

12. GG recommended creating a National Action Plan for Human Rights Education and developing a national curriculum for elementary and high school so students know their Human Rights.[30]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[31]

13. JS12 observed that the authorities have worked to systematically exclude Shia culture from the country's official history, media, and educational curricula. State-sponsored textbooks and museums typically downplay or outright ignore the importance of Shia – and specifically Baharna – communities in the history of Bahrain.[32] ICSFT and GIDHR observed the absence of any doctrinal or ideological beliefs for the Shias in Islamic education curricula and universities and Shia cities and villages were renamed, to erase traces of their heritage and to be excluded from the government's tourism promotion. They demanded Bahrain to stop erasing history and heritage of the Shia population, and make necessary reforms to the educational curriculum to ensure that they are free of hate speech and religious exclusion or discrimination.[33]

14. LHRD stated that over the past years, the ratio of the Shiite sect appointments in senior posts is less than 15 percent. In 2014, they occupied 13.5 percent of public posts, compared to 16 percent in 2013. It recommended Bahrain to adopt the principle of transparency, and competitiveness; carry out political reforms, and issue a law criminalizing all forms of discrimination.[34]

Development, environment and business and human rights

15. OHR asked if the government will reach the national level to achieve global average temperature to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change. They asked Bahrain to share its greatest challenges to implement the Paris Agreement at the national level.[35]

Human rights and counter-terrorism

16. Alkarama, JS6, JS17 and JS2 observed that the amendments in 2013 and 2015 of the Anti-Terrorism Law restricted the fundamental freedoms and threatened peaceful activists, human rights defenders and members of the opposition. The vague nature of the aforementioned law has reportedly curtained fundamental freedoms. They recommended narrowing the definition of terrorism; amend the legislation in accordance with international law; abolishing decree No. 20 of 2013 and amend Law No. 58 of 2006 on the protection of society from terrorist acts that permit revoking the citizenship in terrorism related cases and revisit all judgments made by virtue of this law.[36]

2. Civil and Political Rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person[37]

17. Four submissions stated that Bahrain categorically rejected recommendations from eight countries urging it to abolish the death penalty and impose a moratorium on its application. Death penalty remained in force, often during unfair trials, in the Penal Code and the Terrorist Acts (No. 58/2006) for murder, terrorism-related offences and other crimes, including drugs offences. While reporting that 10 persons were sentenced to death, they recommended commuting all death sentences and establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it.[38] Mabade'a called for accountability concerning the cases of death in detention as a result of torture or mistreatment.[39]

18. Five submissions noted that as was recommended during its previous review, the authorities have brought the definition of torture in national legislation in line with international standards and have criminalized acts of torture by introducing a number of amendments such as the Royal Decree No.52 of 2012 by amending the definition of torture under the Criminal Code. They reported that torture and other ill-treatment represent a major human rights concern as torture is still a common practice, particularly of detainees arrested on suspicion of terrorism or other security-related offences at the Criminal Investigations Directorate. They regretted that Bahrain has not implemented the BICI recommendations and the state of impunity is still dominant in Bahrain. Moreover, the public prosecution and judges have been unwilling to efficiently and impartially investigate allegations of torture or ill-treatment. The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) reported that it had received 908 complaints from May 2014 to April 2015, a 375 per cent increase over the previous year. They recommended amending the Penal Code to bring it in line with the CAT and end the practice of torture and reject any statement obtained thereby; investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of torture with penalties and ensure that conditions of detention are in conformity with international standards and implement all BICI relevant recommendations.[40]

19. ADHRB, JS4 and JS11 recommended Bahrain to mandate that the judiciary reject evidence obtained under duress and order immediate investigations into any allegations of torture and commute prison sentences based on coerced confessions, at the same time prosecute effectively all security agents that have allegedly committed torture.[41] AI and JS11 were concerned over the independence and impartiality of SIU as it failed to comply systematically with the Istanbul Protocol standards and compromised by its location. In 2014 report, the NIHR recommended relocating it to a different building from the Public Prosecution Office.[42]

20. ICSRF, JS1 and ADHRB observed that prisoners are held in correctional institutions that do not meet the Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, provide a fertile environment for torture and represent an instrument for revenge from the opposition. They recommended improving the conditions in all official prisons, in accordance with universally applicable minimum standards and reducing overcrowding.[43]

21. ADF recommended taking steps to recognize and follow national and international obligations to protect the right to life and introduce additional safeguards on abortion services.[44]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law [45]

22. Five submissions reiterated the recommendations that Bahrain fully supported concerning the review of charges against the persons convicted for exercising the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, and to release them immediately. They noted that unfair trials of government critics and opponents, including protesters, have become a prominent feature of the human rights landscape. They reported that the Bahraini authorities dangerously violated the minimum guarantees of the people's right to a fair trial.[46] JS6 recommended the review of all the judicial sentences that were issued over political backgrounds, hold the judicial officials accountable, and review the judicial procedures that deprive defendants their freedom.[47] ICSRF noted that there is no article on compensation due to judicial errors, recommending an amendment to the law allowing those persons to claim compensation.[48]

23. Alkarama and JS6 noted that Bahrain has not implemented the recommendations accepted during the last UPR concerning special courts, military tribunals and a National Safety Court continued to exist. They recommended abolishing this Court and limiting the jurisdiction of military courts to military personnel only.[49]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[50]

24. JS12 observed that in its second UPR cycle, Bahrain fully supported recommendations (Recommendations 115.70, 115.93) concerning efforts to meet the aspirations of the victims of discrimination and the protection of ethnic and religious communities. The government has failed to implement those recommendations. On the contrary, the authorities have continued to discriminate against Bahrain's Shia majority – including the Baharna and Ajam ethnoreligious groups – in most aspects of daily life. JS12 recommended Bahrain to respect the right of the Shia community to publicly observe religious practices and holidays, reopen closed religious associations and Shia civil society groups and refrain from obstructing Friday prayers and other religious gatherings.[51] JS12, GIDHR and ODVV observed that the Bahraini authorities have increased restrictions on freedom of religion and conscience. They reported that at least 38 Shia mosques have been destroyed. They recommended respecting freedom of religion and take practical steps to stop any form of discrimination against Shia Muslims.[52]

25. AI, JS17 and JS2 stated that Bahrain received many recommendations in the 2nd UPR cycle, (115.99, 115.100, 115.101, 115.146, 115.157, 115.160, 115.161, 115.163) on freedom of expression, association and assembly and creating an enabling environment for civil society organizations (CSOs). They rejected the government interim report claiming that they implemented those recommendations, with the majority of domestic legislation criminalizing freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly remained in place. They recommended amending the 1989 Law of Associations, repeal Laws 18/1973, 32/2006 and 22/2013, and Articles 178 and 180 of the Penal Code; and unconditionally release and quash the convictions of those arrested and detained for exercising their freedom of peaceful assembly rights.[53] BHRO stated that the Bahraini authorities imposed numerous legislative and procedural constraints on civil society.[54]

26. JS1 observed that the authorities used several laws such as the Penal Code, the Terrorism Act, the Citizenship Act, and the Public Gatherings Law to silence political activists, human rights defenders, and influential people in the media field, in addition to others who are affiliated with the opposition.[55] AI, BHRO, ODVV, JS6, JS9, JS14, JS15 JS17 and JS2 noted that since Bahrain's last UPR, the authorities have continued to target the political opposition in Bahrain, imprisoning the leaders of the major opposition groups and restricting their activities. This law gives the Ministry of Justice the right to register and supervise political associations, while it is not obliged to clarify the reasons for refusing to accept the registration of new associations. As a result, the Ministry of Justice filed a lawsuit against Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, Bahrain's main Shia opposition group on July 17, 2016 and its Secretary General Sheikh Ali Salaman has been detained since December 2014 on charges related to his freedom of expression. They recommended amending the Political Associations Law, by revoking article 13, and163 of the Penal Code, and repeal all measures against the political opposition; allow opposition party members and leaders to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in line with international human rights law and release all leaders and political activists arrested since 2011.[56]

27. Alkarama and JS11 noted that over the past five years, Bahrain continued to face the consequences of the 2011 political crisis and the repression of the opposition by the authorities. Peaceful protests were severely repressed by security forces using excessive force. They recommended prosecuting all cases of excessive use of force.[57]

28. AI noted that with the amendment to the Law on Political Associations, (Law 26 of 2005), Bahrain introduced additional restrictions on religious freedoms, by prohibiting members of a political society from engaging in religious preaching and prohibiting leaders of a political society from giving religious speeches, sermons or guidance. The Decree 31 of 2013 also violated the rights to freedom of association and breached Bahrain's

international obligations under the ICCPR. AI and JS17 recommended Bahrain to repeal or amend all laws that unduly restrict the activities of political associations, including Decree 31 of 2013, Law 34 of 2014, and Law 26 of 2015.[58]

29. AI, BHRO and JS6 reported that Bahraini authorities, since 2012 UPR, banned announced demonstrational events held by registered civil and political associations. They stated that in 2013, a Royal-Decree was issued for amending Article 11 of the Law on Public Gatherings, banning indefinitely all public assemblies in Manama, with the exception of demonstrations to be held in front of international organizations. They recommended Bahrain to allow all forms of peaceful demonstration without restrictions or conditions; amend article no.11 of the law of demonstrations and amend the Penal Code to ensure that Article 179 is not misused to punish those who practice the right to peaceful protest.[59] JS11, NIHR and Mabade'a called on the government to ensure that law enforcement officials protect peaceful assemblies and to provide them with specialized human rights training to deal with those rallies, in addition to amending the law of 1982 No. 3.[60]

30. BHRO and JS1 recommended Bahrain to hold accountable those caused serious injuries to citizens during crackdown on protests and to practice self-restraint in suppressing events that derail from a peaceful nature.[61]

31. Seven submissions stated that Bahrain failed to address adequately many of its recommendations related to the rightful activities of human rights defenders (four UPR and the BICI recommendations) or introduced any meaningful reform instead, they intensified their clampdown and oppressive security measures on human rights defenders and civil society. Between June and September 2016, 24 individuals, including human rights defenders, former prisoners of conscience, a lawyer and a journalist, have faced official travel bans or been prevented from travelling abroad to participate in human rights advocacy meetings, including to attend the Human Rights Council 32nd and 33rd sessions. Nabeel Rajab, the President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, was arrested on 13 June 2016 and is on trial facing charges of "spreading false rumours in times of war", "insulting public authorities" and "insulting a foreign country". It recommended abandoning any restrictions or obstacles to the activities of individuals and organisations engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights, immediately and unconditionally release all activists and prisoners of conscience held in custody for defending human rights, promptly halt harassment and unjust trials against human rights defenders and enable them to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without being subjected to intimidation or retaliation.[62]

32. Six submissions noted that despite the accepted recommendations in the second UPR cycle, the Government has made no effort to implement greater protections for media and press freedoms since its previous cycle, and it continues to prosecute journalists and citizens for exercising the right to free expression. The editors-in-chief of Bahrain's six daily newspapers had signed a "charter of press ethics" empowering the Information Affairs Authority (IAA) to target and restrict media outlets. The 2002 Press and Publication Law empowered the government to prosecute journalists in 17 categories of offence. In February 2016, the government announced that it had finalized a first draft of a new law on media, but it did not provide a timeline for its promulgation. The government has specifically imposed greater restrictions on online free expression with a series of new decrees and the cybercrime law." In the first two years of the second UPR cycle, the government restricted the travel of 44 journalists and 22 media organizations. Activists and journalists remain at an extremely high risk of arrest, torture, and imprisonment for doing their jobs. They recommended passing a comprehensive new media and publication law that fully enshrines the right to free expression in accordance with international human rights standards; repeal and Decree 68/2016 on live streaming and publication of videos;

repeal Article 169 of the Penal Code, the 2002 Press and Publications Law, the Press Law (Decree 47/2002), the Law of Protecting Society from Terrorist Acts, the cybercrime law, and the Charter of Press Ethics; cease the practice of forced closure or suspension of media outlets, and end license requirements and establish independent regulatory bodies for the media in compliance with international human rights law, promulgate; prohibit the arbitrary disruption of internet service; cease mass online filtering and reinstate arbitrarily blocked websites and allow foreign press to report freely from Bahrain.[63] RWB stated that beyond the repression of traditional media, the Government is increasingly restricting internet freedom. In 2012, the country became part of their list of "Enemies of the Internet". It recommended putting an end to the filtering and blockage of the internet as well as to online surveillance and revise the 2002 press and publications code and the telecommunications law.[64]

33. RWB stated that freedom of information and the press has considerably deteriorated with the continued repression of journalists and other news providers and increased online censorship. They reported that Bahrain ranks 162nd out of 180 in the 2016 Press Freedom Index. About 14 journalists continued to be behind bars for having simply done their job. RWB recommended Bahrain to cease all harassment of journalists, free immediately all journalists and put an end to impunity.[65] JS2 recommended de-criminalizing defamation, including through repealing Articles 214 and 216 of the Penal Code regarding insulting the King of Bahrain, or its flag or the national emblem and offending the National Assembly, the army, courts, or government agencies.[66]

34. FN and JS17 was concerned regarding the arbitrary detention of political prisoners noting that in the previous UPR, Bahrain accepted most of the recommendations related to arbitrary detention. Instead of amending its penal code to align with its obligations under international law to support freedom of expression, it increased the penalty for slandering the king to up to seven years in prison. In 2013 alone, 328 people were brought to trial for alleged terrorism offenses. They recommended that Bahrain immediately and unconditionally release and rehabilitate the civil and political rights of Abdulhadi al-Khawaja and all other individuals who have been detained under criminal or administrative charges for exercising their fundamental human rights, including the right to freedoms of expression, association, and assembly and allow them to peacefully promote the cause of human rights in accordance with the rights guaranteed to them in international human rights treaties.[67]

35. Four submissions stated that since the 2011 unrest and the UPR in 2012 (recommendation 115.103), the government failed to integrate members of the Shia community into the police force, and their presence remained negligible. They stated that Bahrain has for decades despite nominal efforts to recruit Shia citizens for service in the security forces after 2011. They reported sectarianization in the police force, suggesting that they tolerated, if not directly, anti-Shia and extremist views within the security forces. They recommended increasing the percentage in all subdivisions of the security forces with the aim of gradually achieving proportional representation and cease discrimination in recruiting and hiring for the security forces.[68]

Prohibition of all forms of slavery[69]

36. JS8, NIHR and BYLA observed concerning recommendations (115.94 and 97) on the prevention and elimination of trafficking in human beings that despite the State's efforts to establish the "National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking" there is a lack of policies protecting victims and absence of a comprehensive national strategy to combat human trafficking. They recommended amending Law (1 of 2008) regarding human trafficking to expand its definition and setting deterrent penalties to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking.[70]

Right to privacy and family life[71]

37. Six submissions stated that the first part of the family law (the section of Sunni sect) was adopted in May 2009, while the second part (the section of the doctrine of al-Ja'afari personal status law) was not yet adopted. This delay is causing suffering to women and her children belonging to this sect, recommending a rapid issuance of the second part.[72]

3. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[73]

38. GIDHR recommended Bahrain to reform provisions contained within the Labor Law, the Civil Service Law, and Legislative Decree No. 41 that instigate undue economic impact against Shia communities.[74]

39. JS8 and NIHR called on the legislative authority to pass a law to protect the rights of about 70,000 domestic workers, which 40 percent of them are foreigners. A law that should deal with issues related to recruitment offices, including by taking strict legal measures against employers and companies that do not comply with the minimum standards for the protection of lodging of foreign workers.[75]

Right to social security [76]

40. GIDHR recommended Bahrain to ensure the extension of social welfare benefits to low-income Shia families without discrimination.[77]

Right to an adequate standard of living[78]

41. JS12 observed that in recent years the government has done little to address the systemic socioeconomic inequalities between the Sunni and Shia communities, particularly in the cases of the Baharna and Ajam ethnoreligious groups. Though the government does offer welfare programs, restrictions on eligibility, prevents many families from obtaining these benefits. Citizens living in underprivileged areas often find themselves without houses, adequate sewage systems, and water supply. Shia families face institutionalized obstacles in their attempts to acquire state-owned housing. JS12 recommended creating new housing projects in impoverished Shia communities.[79]

42. BJA called upon the executive body to speed up the development of the housing projects for all journalists. BJA called on the Government of Bahrain to provide job security measures, Health insurance, and an emergency fund for journalists due to the importance of the field of journalism in holding the essence of freedom of speech.[80]

Right to health[81]

43. JS18 observed and reported on the low standard of health at the largest public hospital, with more than sixty medics' personnel arrested and tortured, the dismissal of 200 experienced doctors, just for providing medical care to injured protestors, in the wake of the 2011 uprisings, coupled with the hiring of foreign medics and poor hospital management. They recommended Bahrain to reinstate dismissed doctors, hire qualified nurses, and adopt appropriate administrative measures and cease all interference in the work of medical personnel, including judicial harassment and violence. They also recommended increasing funding for health sector, establish additional public hospitals and cease all forms of retaliation against medical personnel for respecting medical neutrality and impartiality.[82]

Right to education[83]

44. BTA and ICSFT observed that in the past five years, specifically since February 2011, there has been clearly increased level of discrimination in employment, especially against Shiite employees at Bahrain Training Institute, and in promotions in the education sector and discrimination in educational scholarships.[84]

45. JS12 and ICSFT observed that in the education system, government policy prevents the vast majority of Shia children from receiving a Shia religious education within their schools. Shia teachers also face discriminatory practices in hiring and promotions. According to Shia students, the Ministry of Education also displays an anti-Shia bias when distributing scholarships. Though the government claims that it has reinstated nearly all those who lost their jobs in the aftermath of the 2011 unrest, the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions found that several hundred cases had yet to be resolved as of 2013.[85]

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women[86]

46. BYLA JS8, and LHRD reported concerning the 2nd UPR cycle recommendations on the advancement of women, (115.39, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 96, 77); taking further measures, including legislative, in order to expand their rights and opportunities and to promote gender equality, (115.68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77) that limited percentage of women occupy decision making positions, (3 in the Council of Representatives, 8 in the Shura Council, 7 women judges, and 1 female minister). They recommended Bahrain to take legislative measures to expand those rights and opportunities and to realize gender equality, setting a 30% national-level quota for political participation (recommendations 71, 73).[87] JS8 and JS9 recommended adopting a new law on CSOs in compliance with ICCPR, to repeal all restrictive measures against CSOs and revoke article 18 from the law on civil society, in order for NGOs to assist women in the participation in the political life.[88]

47. BYLA noted that discrimination continues with the lack of translation of Article (18) of the Constitution into laws guaranteeing equality between genders, such as the "Citizenship Law", and the absence of the Jaafari section of the Family Law despite recommendations (115.7, 8, 9, 10) considering the reservations on Articles (2, 9/2, 10/4, 15/4, 16) violate the essence of CEDAW.[89]

Children[90]

48. ACFH expressed its concerns about child rights in Bahrain, particularly with the growing exploitation of children in the villages and exposing them to violence, marches and acts of arson and Molotov cocktails by the parties and militant groups, causing serious violations to the future of children and juveniles in Bahrain, which require from the competent Bahraini authorities to put deterrent legal action from the exploitation of children by extremist parties in Bahrain.[91]

Persons with disabilities[92]

49. NIHR and Mabade'a reported on the need to pass a new law to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with convention on disabilities and to continue to implement and enforce the 2012–2016 national strategy of the rights of persons with disabilities. It urged the government to enhance the infrastructure to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in public facilities.[93]

Minorities and indigenous peoples[94]

50. ADF observed that while Article 18 of the Constitution guarantees equality and protection from discrimination based on religion, Article 2 states that Islamic sharia law is the main source of legislation and Article 22 of the Constitution is very narrow and conditional and does not explicitly guarantee the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. Christians and other religious minorities continue to suffer from discrimination and persecution. The main source of persecution of Christians in Bahrain is Islamic extremism. Christians and other religious groups are subject to government-imposed limitations on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. The media law prohibits anti-Islamic publications and broadcasts. ADF recommended Bahrain to take steps to combat Islamic extremism; protect religious minorities from persecution and discrimination.[95]

Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[96]

51. JS9 observed that the Government of Bahrain does not recognize the migrant status but as expatriate nature of workers with important significance.[97] ACFH and BHRWS expressed its severe concerns on the security and the safety of expatriate workers by being targeted by extremist and radical parties and their intimidation, threats and closure of their shops.[98] BHRWS observed that foreign workers continue to be exposed to violations of their rights and operates under hazardous conditions.[99]

52. BYLA noted that despite the State's efforts to establish the "National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking" (NCCHT), major challenges facing migrant worker, with the continuation of violation of migrant labour rights, such as retention of official documents, the absence of a law to prevent sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace and recommended increased efforts to advance the fight against violence by conducting investigations with visa dealers to prevent those practices.[100]

Stateless persons[101]

53. Six submissions urged Bahrain to continue taking temporary measures for granting citizenship to children of Bahraini woman marrying a non-Bahraini until the draft law amending the Nationality Law comes into effect (115.75, 95, 96, 140, 141, 142, 143). They also noted that Citizenship Act of 1963, as amended, continue to deny them the right to pass on their nationality to their children and spouses, preventing women from enjoying citizenship rights on an equal basis with men. They recommended Bahrain to comprehensively amend the nationality law, particularly Article (4), aimed at granting women equal rights to men concerning nationality in accordance with Bahrain international treaty obligations, particularly.[102]

54. Seven submissions stated that Bahrain issued a legislative Decree No. 21 of 2014 to amend the provisions of the Bahraini Citizenship Act of 1963. The amendment in Article 8 provided that "Bahraini citizenship may be revoked, upon request from the Interior Minister and approval of the cabinet, from any naturalised person" who has, among other things, been "found guilty of a crime connected with honour and integrity" within ten years of receiving it. They noted that since 2012, the Bahraini authorities have arbitrarily revoked the Bahraini nationality of at least 316 people, including Sheikh Isa Qassem, effectively rendering the majority of them stateless. Since 2014, at least six individuals have been forcibly expelled from the country. They recommended Bahrain to end the repressive nature of the 2006 Anti-Terrorism Law and revisit all judgments made by virtue of this law.[103] HRF recommended Bahrain to return those forced into exile to Bahrain.[104] Mabade'a and ICSRF was also concerned revocation of nationality and particularly from family members as it goes beyond the principle of personal punishment in violation to article 20 (a

and b) of the Constitution andrecommended amending the constitution prohibiting the revocation of nationality.[105]

55. JS10 estimated the number of stateless Bidoon to be several thousand in Bahrain. Children of stateless fathers continue to be born, and remain, stateless. Bidoon, many of Bahrain's Ajam population, an ethnoreligious group of predominantly Shia individuals of Persian descent, remain stateless. The denial of citizenship for Ajam has forced the community disproportionately into lower socioeconomic conditions.[106]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.
Civil society
Individual submissions:

AI	Amnesty International, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ACFH	Ahwazi Centre for Human Rights, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ADF	ADF International 'Alliance Defending Freedom', Geneva (Switzerland);
ADHRB	Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Washington, DC (United States of America);
Alkarama	Alkarama Foundation, Geneva, (Switzerland);
BHRO	Bahrain Human Rights Observatory, Adliya (Bahrain);
BHRWS	Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
BJA	Bahrain Journalists' Association, Manama (Bahrain);
BYLA	Bahrain Young Ladies Association, Manama (Bahrain);
BTA	Submission by Bahrain Teachers Society, Manama (Bahrain);
ECDHR	European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, Brussels (Belgium);
FFF	Four Freedoms Forum, Kaneohe (United States of America);
FN	Freedom Now, Washington, DC (United States of America);
GECHR	Gulf European Centre for Human Rights, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
GG	The Good (Global Organizing for Optimal Dignity & Diplomacy) Group , Honolulu (United States of America);
GIDHR	Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR), Sydney, NSW (Australia);
HRF	Human Rights First, Washington, DC (United States of America);
ICSFT	International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, Grand-Saconnex (Switzerland);
ICSRF	The International Center for supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF), Cairo (Egypt);
LHRD	Liberties and Human Rights Department in Al Wefaq, Manama (Bahrain);
Mabade'a	Mabade'a Society For Human Rights (جمعية مبادئ لحقوق الانسان), Manama (Bahrain);
MCHR	Manama Centre for Human Rights, Manama (Bahrain);
OHR	OCEANIA Human Rights Hawaii, Kailua (United States of America);
ODVV	The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) Tehran (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
RWB/RSF	Reporters Without Borders, Paris, (France).

Joint submissions:

JS1 **Joint submission 1 submitted by:** Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, Khiam Rehabilitation center for victims of Torture, The Regional Forum for Human Rights, (Bahrain);

JS2 **Joint submission 2 submitted by:** ARTICLE 19 and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

JS3 **Joint submission 3 submitted by:** SALAM Democracy and Human Right and Sentinel Human Rights Defenders, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

JS4 **Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Freedom House, Bahrain Center for Human Rights and Gulf Center for Human Rights, Washington, DC (United States of America);

JS5 **Joint submission 5 submitted by:** Equality Now, New York (United States of America), Bahrain Women's Union, (Bahrain) and Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Nairobi (Kenya)/c/o Women's Refugee Commission, New York (United States of America);

JS6 **Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Human Rights Defenders for Bahrain and Bahrain Interfaith Center, Manama (Bahrain);

JS7 **Joint submission 7 submitted by:** The Advocates for Human Rights, Lualua Center for Human Rights, Gulf Civil Society Associations Forum, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture and The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Minneapolis (United States of America);

JS8 **Joint submission 8 submitted by: Bahrain Women Union** (الاتحاد النسائي البحريني), Bahrain Society Renaissance Girl (جمعية نهضة فتاة البحرين), Bahraini Women's Association (جمعية المرأة البحرينية), Rural Girl Society (جمعية فتاة الريف) and Bahrain Women Association for Human Development (جمعية البحرين النسائية للتنمية الإنسانية), Manama (Bahrain);

JS9 **Joint submission 9 submitted by:** Bahrain Transparency Society (BTS), and Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS), Manama (Bahrain);

JS10 **Joint submission 10 submitted by:** The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion Eindhoven (The Netherlands) and Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Eindhoven (Netherlands);

JS11 **Joint submission 11 submitted by:** Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD), London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) Washington, DC (United States of America) and Reprieve, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

JS12 **Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) and Bahrain Center Cultural Society (BCCS) Washington, DC (United States of America);

JS13 **Joint submission 13 submitted by:** European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR), Brussels (Belgium); Americans for Democracy& Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Washington, DC (United States of America) , English PEN and PEN International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and Reporters Without Borders (RSF/RWB), Paris, (France);

JS14	**Joint submission 14 submitted by:** Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Human Rights First (HRF), and Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED), Washington, DC (United States of America);
JS15	**Joint submission 15 submitted by:** Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) Washington, DC (United States of America), and Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), Washington, DC (United States of America);
JS16	**Joint submission 17 submitted by:** Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) and Iraqi Development Organization (IDO) Baghdad (Iraq);
JS17	**Joint submission 18 submitted by:** CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation Johannesburg (South Africa), Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Washington, DC (United States of America) and Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), Washington, DC (United States of America);
JS18	**Joint submission 19 submitted by:** European Centre for Rights and Democracy (ECDHR), Brussels (Belgium); Defenders for Medical Impartiality (DMI), Beirut (Lebanon).

National human rights institution(s):

NIHR	National Institution for Human Rights, Manama (Bahrain);

[1] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure;
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Fam., etc.
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD;
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/9, paras. 115.1-115.20, 115.94, 115.97-115.97, 115.59, 115.157 and 115.163.

[3] HRF, page 3 and Mahmood's, page 11.

[4] ADHRB pages 6, JS4, page 7, JS9, page 3 and Alkarama, page 3. See also recommendations 115.1 (Czech Republic), 115.3 (Spain) and 115.18 (Uruguay).

[6] JS7, page 7.
[7] JS11, page 9; Mah Mahrahi'a, page 11 and HRF, page 2.
[8] BYLA, page 2.
[9] JS9, page 9 and 10.
[10] JS9, page 9 and ICNRF, page 5.
[11] JS10, page 9.
[12] CIDVV pages 5.
[13] NDHR, page 6, BYLA, page 2.
[14] BYLA, pages 4 and 5, JS5, page 3-4, JS8, page 4 and 5 and JS10, pages 5, 6 and 9.
[15] MCHR, page 2.
[16] AI, page 1.
[17] HRF, page 3, GEHR, page 3, JS17, page 13, JS7, page 7, JS17, page 18, ADHRB pages 6, HRF page, 2, JS4, page 7, JS6, page 9, JS9, page 4 and AI, pages 1 and 2 and JS2, pages 1 and 2.
A/HRC/21/6, 6 July 2012, recommendations 115.59 (Austria), 115.60 (Latvia), 115.61 (Latvia), 115.62 (Uruguay), 115.63 (France), 115.64 (Korea), 115.65 (Slovenia); Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Bahrain (addendum)*, A/HRC/21/6/Add.1/Rev.1, 12 October 2012, paragraphs 16, 18. The Special Rapporteur, Mr Mandez, stated "This is the second time that my visit has been postponed, at very short notice. It is effectively a cancellation as no alternative dates were proposed nor is there a future road map to discuss." - *Bahrain / Human rights: Government effectively cancels UN Special Rapporteur on torture's visit*, available at http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13261&LangID=E (accessed 8 August 2016). Bahrain has received visit requests from the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (30 October 2013), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (in 2012 and again in February 2016), the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression (14 November 2014), and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (9 July 2015).
[18] Alkarama, pages 3 and 5, JS11, page 5 and 9, JS4, page 7, JS6, page 9, JS9, page 4 and AI, pages 1 and 2, JS2, pages 1 and 2, CIDVV pages 4-5, JS17, page 18, ADHRB pages 6 and HRF page, 2.
[19] Alkarama, pages 3 and 5 and JS11, page 5 and 9, JS4, page 7, [illegible], page 9, JS9, page 4 and AI, pages 1 and 2, JS2, pages 1 and 2, CIDVV pages 4-5, JS17, page 18, ADHRB pages 6 and HRF page, 2.
[20] GEHR, page 3, JS17, page 13 and JS7, page 7.
[21] JS6, page 10.
[22] JS17, page 13 and JS7, page 7.
[23] AI, pages 2 and 7, Alkarama, page 2, JS9, page 1 and 2, JS14, pages 5 and JS2, page 10. See also recommendations 115.28 (Norway), 115.43 (Sweden), 115.45 (Turkey), 115.99 (Canada), 115.107 (Republic of Korea), 115.124 (Denmark), 115.127 (Thailand), 115.128 (Belgium), 115.132 (Qatar), 115.133 (Egypt), 115.134 (Jordan), 115.135 (Kuwait), 115.136 (Oman), 115.137 (Saudi Arabia), and 115.142 (Japan) concerning implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) recommendations.
[24] JS14, pages 8.
[25] Alkarama, page 4, NDHR, page 5, Mahrahi'a, page 11.
[26] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.21-115.27, 115.29-115.30, 115.32-115.38, 115.40-115.41, 115.44, 115.46, 115.48-115.50, 115.52-115.53, 115.55, 115.68, 115.77, 115.88, 115.90, 115.92, 115.95-115.96, 115.102-115.105, 115.115, 115.119, 115.120, 115.126, 115.130, 115.140-115.148, 115.151-115.154, 115.157, 115.160, 115.162, 115.164 and 115.166-115.168.
[27] Alkarama, page 3, 4.
[28] BICI/V/5, page 6.
[29] JS16, pages 1-6. See also recommendations 115.34 (Indonesia), 115.35 (Maldives), and 115.36 (Poland), JS17, page 13 and Alkarama, page, 3 and 4 and AI, page 3. See also Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, *Report and Recommendations of the Session of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA)*, Geneva, 9-13 MAY 2016, available at http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/ICCAccreditation/Documents/SCA%20(NAI)%20(EPOR)%20-%20MAY%202016-English.pdf (accessed on 26 September 2016).

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pages 6, 7 and 8, AI, pages 4 and 7, JS9, pages 5, 6 and 7 and JS15, pages 8 and 10 and JS14, pages 7, 10 and 11. See also recommendations 115.110 (Islamic Republic of Iran), 115.101 (Germany), 115.100 (Czech Republic), 115.122 (Norway) and 115.146 (France).

[57] Alkarama, pages 3 and 7 and JS11, pages 5 and 6. Recommendations 115.24 (Slovakia), 115.27 (Ireland), 115.89 (Germany) and 115.109 (Canada).

[58] AI, pages 4, 5 and 7 and JS17, pages 10, 14 and 16.

[59] AI, page 6, BHRO, pages 5 and 6 and JS6, page 8.

[60] JS11, pages 1 and 6, NIHR, page 4 and 6, Mabade'a, page 12. See recommendations 115.89 (Germany), 115.102 (Spain), 115.104 (Palestine), 115.105 (Saudi Arabia), 115.109 (Canada), 115.130 (Netherlands).

[61] BHRO, page 6 and JS1, page 13.

[62] JS3, pages 4 and 7, JS4, page 7, AI, pages 5 and 7, JS6, page 7, JS14, pages 6 and 7, JS17, pages 7-10, JS2, pages 7-10 and ODVV page 3. See also recommendations No. 115.59, 115.62, 115.63, 115.65.

[63] RWB, pages 2 and 3, JS13 pages 1-7, NIHR, page 5 and JS17, pages 12 and 13, BJA, pages 2 and 4, and JS2, pages 2, 3 and 4. Recommendations 115.25 (Mexico), 115.30 (Egypt), 115.148 (Norway), 115.149 (Chile), 115.152 (Austria), 115.153 (Canada) 115.154 (Estonia) 115.155 (Germany), 115.156 (Belgium), 115.157 (the Netherlands) 115.158 (Spain), and 115.161 (Australia).

[64] RWB, page 2 and 3.

[65] RWB, page 1 and 3.

[66] JS2, page 10.

[67] FN, pages 2, 3 and 6 and JS17, pages 8-10.

[68] JS9, page 2, JS14, pages 2-4 and LHRD, page 6 and GIDHR, page 3. See also recommendation para.115.103. (United States of America).

[69] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.91, 115.94, 115.97, 115.100-115.101, 115.122, 115.146 and 115.159.

[70] JS8, page 9, NIHR, pages 4 and 5, BYLA, pages 5-7.

[71] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.75, 115.138-115.39 and 115.140.

[72] JS8, page 7, NIHR, page 4, MCHR, page 2 and 3, GECHR, page 1, BYLA, page, 7 and BHRWS, page 5.

[73] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.164, 115.175 and 115.176.

[74] GIDHR, page 3.

[75] JS8, pages 8-10, NIHR, page 6.

[76] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, para. 115.47.

[77] GIDHR, page 3.

[78] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/21/6, para 115.165.

[79] JS12, pages 8, 9 and 11.

[80] BJA page 3.

[81] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/21/6, para. 115.120.

[82] JS18, pages 1, 3-5.

[83] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.169-115.172.

[84] BTA, pages 2-5 and ICSFT, pages 2 and 8.

[85] JS12, pages 10 and 11 and ICSFT, pages 2-11.

[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115, 115.39, 115.51, 115.69 and 115.71-115.74.

[87] BYLA, pages 3 and 4 and HLRD, pages 6 and 7. See also recommendations 115.49 (Egypt), 115.139 (Brazil), 115.168 (Uruguay), 115.48 (Bangladesh), 115.50 (Oman), 115.52 (United Arab Emirates), 115.96 (Argentina), 155.77 (Nicaragua), 115.69 (Jordan), 115.71. (Morocco), 115.72 (Republic of Korea) and 115.73 (Chile).

[88] JS8, page 4 and JS9, pages 5 and 6.

[89] BYLA, pages 1 and 2. See also recommendations, 115.7 (Uruguay), 115.8 (Chile), 115.9 (Slovenia), 115.10 (Republic of Korea).

[90] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.29 and 115.168.

[91] ACFH page 1.

[92] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115, 115.38, 115.168.

[93] Mabade'a, page 8 and NIHR, pages 2 and 3.

[94] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, para. 115.93.
[95] ADF, pages 3-6.
[96] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.76, 115.173-115.175 and 115.176.
[97] JS9, page 9.
[98] ACFH page 1 and BHRWS, page 5.
[99] BHRWS, page 5.
[100] BYLA, page 7.
[101] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/21/6, paras. 115.7, 115.75, 115.95-115.96 and 115.140-115.143.
[102] NIHR, page 2, Mahadeʼa, page 7, JS5, pages 34, JS10, page 5, 6, 9 and 10, JS8, page 4 and 5 and BYLA, pages 4 and 5. Recommendations paras. 115, 115.75 (India), 115.95 (Uruguay), 115.96 (Argentina), 115.140 (Japan), 115.141 (Norway), 115.142 (Sudan), 115.143 (Algeria).
[103] JS6, pages 3, 4, 7 and 8, JS10, pages 7 and 7, AI, pages 6 and 8, JS12 pages 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11, Alkarama, pages 3, 7 and 8, JS6, page 2-4 and 12 and JS10, page 10.
[104] HRF, page 4.
[105] ICSRF, pages 9 and 10 and Mahadeʼa, page 7.
[106] JS10, page 4.